SUNDAY
February 12, 2023
BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
28 Pages ₹ 8.00

THE HINDU
ON SUNDAY
INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

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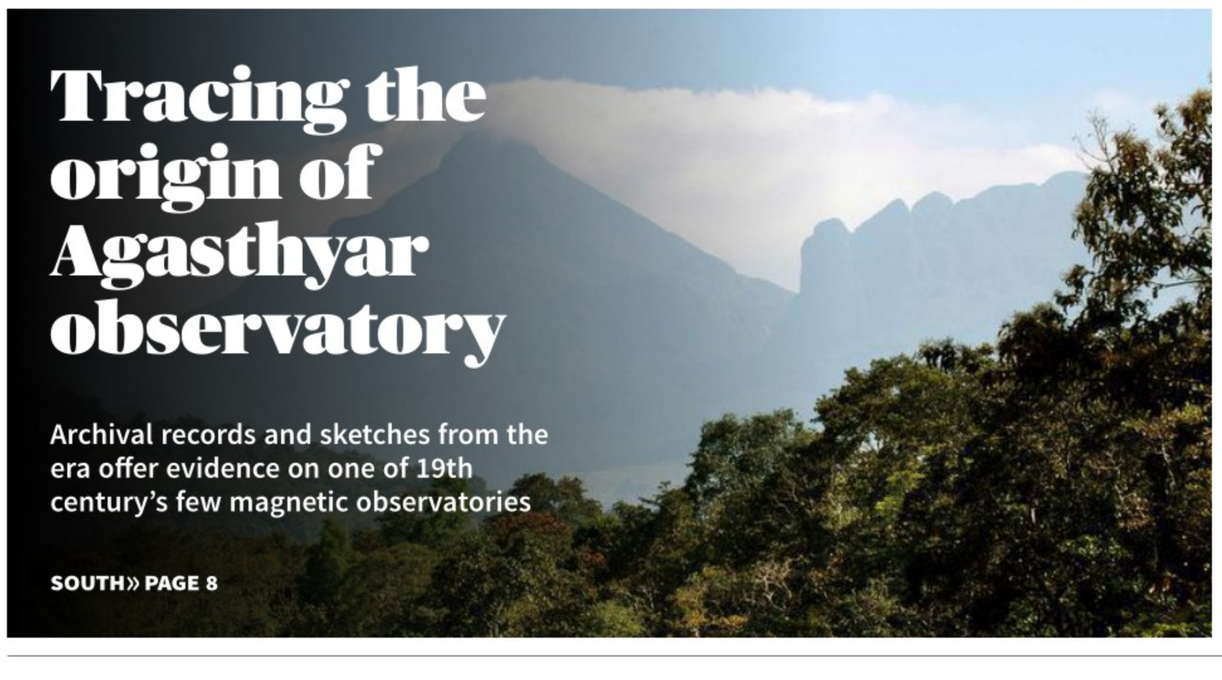
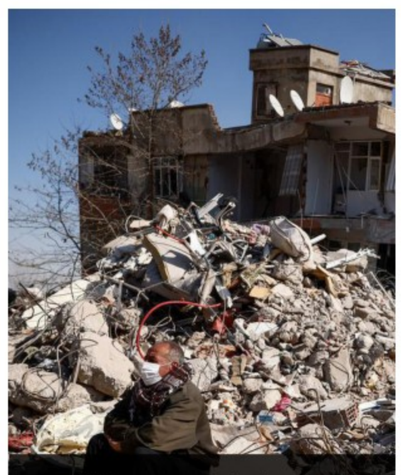


Tracing the origin of Agasthyar observatory

Archival records and sketches from the era offer evidence on one of 19th century's few magnetic observatories

SOUTH» PAGE 8



Why were Turkey's earthquakes so devastating?

FAQ » PAGE 14

David Shulman and the South Indian theory of conscience

MAGAZINE » PAGE 5

Ashwin scalps five as India thrashes Australia by an innings

SPORT » PAGE 17

The cuts run deep

From geopolitics and religion to the police, the Central Board of Film Certification's ambit has grown beyond traditional concerns

Under the axe

There have been over 1,000 cuts/revisions demanded in 300 movies cleared for screening in cinema halls over the past three months or so

PAST CONCERNS:
- Violence
- Sexual content
- Abusive language

SOME RECENT ADDITIONS:
- Integrity of India
- Security of the State
- Friendly relations with foreign States
- Mentions of the government, PM
- Reference to beef

- With **Film Certification Appellate Tribunal** abolished in 2021, appeals can only be made in a High Court

Arbitrary cut: The Telugu version of the film *Gulu Gulu* was ordered to remove a reference to "India Prime Minister", with no explanatory note

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The on-screen version of the Shah Rukh Khan-starrer *Pathaan* introduces one of the villain's henchmen as an ex-SBU agent. The SBU, or the Sluzhba Bespeky Ukrayiny, is the Security Service of Ukraine. However, the original, pre-screen cut of the film announced the character as ex-KGB, a former agent of the erstwhile Soviet Union's spy agency, the Komitet Gosudarstvennoy Bezopasnosti. The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), which orders cuts and modifications to films before they are released, asked the filmmakers to make this change before it could be screened publicly.

In fact, this is just one of over 1,000 cuts and changes ordered on over 300 films across multiple languages (including English) that were cleared for theatrical release across the country over the past few months. *The Hindu* collected and reviewed the censor board's data on cuts made between November 2022 and the first week of February 2023 from two of the CBFC's nine regional offices (Mumbai and Chennai), to understand the larger context in which the board seeks changes to films. In the case of *Pathaan*, the seemingly innocuous swap of spy agencies could reflect on India's growing oil imports from Russia, even as the country balances its global position with regard to the war in Ukraine.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 9

Centre drafting reply to SC 'concerns' on Adani stocks

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday signalled that the government is drafting a response to the Supreme Court's concerns about the meltdown in Adani group stocks in the wake of a research report published by the U.S.-based short seller Hindenburg Research.

Ms. Sitharaman, responding to a query on the court's observations after a meeting with the Reserve Bank of India's Board in the capital, said: "Obviously, you are not expecting me to say to you or to this gathering of senior journalists what I will be saying in court."

> India's regulators are very, very experienced, and they are experts in their domains. The regulators are fairly seized of this matter and they are on their toes, as always, not just now. So I will leave it there.
> **NIRMALA SITHARAMAN**
> Union Finance Minister

"Second, India's regulators – and I am sitting in the company of one of the oldest regulators in the country [pointing to RBI governor Shaktikanta Das] – India's regulators are very, very experienced, and they are experts in their domains. So the regulators are fairly seized of this matter and they are on their toes, as always, not just now. So I will leave it there," the Minister said.

A three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud, on Friday, expressed concerns about the need to protect Indian investors from such sudden market volatility.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 9

NEARBY

Traffic police collect fine of over ₹120 crore

BENGALURU
As the 50% rebate window for the resolution of backlog traffic violation cases drew to a close on Saturday, Bengaluru Traffic Police collected over ₹120 crore in fines between February 3 and 11. However, as this fell short of the target set by the police, they have sought an extension of the rebate period. » Page 5

CLASSIFIEDS » PAGES 4 & 6
MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

Net direct tax kitty rose 18% as on Feb. 10

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's gross direct tax collections had risen 24.1% to touch ₹15.67 lakh crore by Friday, with personal income tax collections rising 29.6%, much faster than corporate income tax inflows, which are up 19.3% so far this year.

Net of refunds, total tax collections are ₹12.98 lakh crore, 18.4% higher than a year ago and constitute 91.4% of the Budget targets for 2022-23 and 78.65% of the revised estimates.

By January 10, net direct tax collections stood at ₹12.31 lakh crore, reflecting a 19.55% growth so the latest cumulative receipts numbers indicate a minor slowdown in inflows over the past month. "The provisional figures of direct tax collections up to February 10, 2023 continue to register steady growth," the Finance Ministry said.

Refunds amounting to ₹2.69 lakh crore have been issued between April last year and February 10 this year, which are 61.6% over the refunds issued during the corresponding period in the preceding year.

"After adjustment of refunds, the net growth in corporate income tax collections is 15.84% and that in personal income tax collections is 21.93%," the Ministry said.

Smooth spin: Emily Chan and Spencer Howe show off their skills at the Championship Pairs Free Skate competition at the 2023 U.S. Figure Skating Championships in San Jose, California. They won the second place. GETTY IMAGES/AFP

Fire on ice

The ISU European Figure Skating Championships in Finland and the U.S. Figure Skating Championships gave a fillip to the sport that blends aesthetics and risk

Skating conjures up visions of languid movements. Equally 'skating on thin ice' is a metaphor that hints at imminent danger. And skating as a sport is a blend of both these angles – aesthetics and risk. But in January, a month linked to fresh hopes and new ideas, skating gained a fillip through the ISU European Figure Skating Championships in Finland and the U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

There was grace and gymnastics on view. This wasn't entirely about one athlete doing a tap-dance on ice and defying gravity. It was also about pairs revealing synergy, this was a tango in tandem of the highest class as evident from the accompanying pictures.

A false step or a failed clasping of hands could trigger a fall – at best, it can cause embarrassment and at worst, it can threaten lives. The pairs, essentially agile men and women, aware of each other's reflexes and movements, proved to be a revelation.

The swivelling on ice, the speed on a slippery surface and the applause of a gobsmacked audience can together cause an adrenaline rush. Equally there is joy and fear but with nimble feet and trusting hands, the pairs reigned and so did those thousand camera-clicks.

Dazzling blur: Katie McBeath and Nathan Bartholomay perform at the Championship Pairs Free Skate competition in San Jose. GETTY IMAGES/AFP

In good spirits: Sara Conti and Niccolo Macii of Italy at the ISU European Figure Skating Championships in Espoo, Finland. They were the gold medalists at the event. REUTERS

The rink is a stage: Sonia Baram and Daniel Tioumentsev placed fourth in the Championship Pairs Free Skate competition in San Jose. GETTY IMAGES/AFP

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Aircraft, helicopters enthrall audience at dress rehearsal of Aero India 2023

In a first, more than 2,000 students witness the rehearsal; 809 exhibitors, including 699 Indian and 110 foreign, to take part in the event

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The final dress rehearsal for Aero India 2023 was held on Saturday, with aircraft and helicopters participating in the biennial airshow doing a flypast in a scintillating aerial display.

The Ministry of Defence said that in a first of its kind initiative, the IAF facilitated more than 2,000 students from Ashrama Schools and Morarji Desai Schools to witness the show. On February 14, 15 and 16, around 500 schoolchildren are also expected to witness the airshow.

Aircraft ranging from the vintage Dakota and Harvard to India's most modern fighter jet, Rafale, enthralled the crowd comprising families of defence personnel and school children at the Air Force Station Yelahanka the venue of the five day airshow.

The indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, Sukohi-30 Mki, MiG-29M, Jaguar, Mirage 2000, Hawk-i, IJT, HTT-40, Netra AEWC, Kiran Mk II were among the other aircraft which were part of the dress rehearsal. The helicopters which were part of the flypast and flying display were Mi 17, Advanced Light Helicopter, Light Utility Helicopter and the Light Combat Helicopter Prachand.

Armed forces' family members and invitees at the rehearsal of Aero India 2023 at Yelahanka Air Force base in Bengaluru on Saturday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Surya Kiran and Sarang

The Indian Air Forces (IAF) two aerobatic teams Surya Kiran and Sarang also performed their signature maneuvers which were well-received from the audience.

While the Surya Kiran team flies the Hawk Mk-132 Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT), the Sarang team performs with the ALH Dhruv helicopters. The two teams during the previous edition of Aero India in 2021 put up a combined display.

The five-day event which will begin on February 13 will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and will include aerial displays by aircraft along with a large exhibition and trade fair of aerospace companies. "This year, the exhibition is expected to be the biggest airshow with the highest rate of participation and will feature top international think-tanks, major aerospace companies and world leaders," said the Ministry of Defence.

Indian Air Force's Boeing C-17 Globemaster, followed by leading aerobatic team 'Suryakiran' at the rehearsal. K. MURALI KUMAR

Indian Air Force helicopter carrying the tricolour during rehearsal in Bengaluru on Saturday. K. MURALI KUMAR

A total of 809 exhibitors, including 699 Indian and 110 foreign ones, will take part in the 14th edition of the exhibition which has been held in Bengaluru since its inception in 1996.

Skit controversy: FIR against principal and others; students suspended

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city police have booked the academic management of Jain (Deemed-to-be) University over the controversial skit staged by its students allegedly demeaning Dalits at their college fest. A case has been booked under Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. The principal, dean, chief organiser of the fest and the writer of the skit have been booked.

Meanwhile, the university has reportedly suspended all six students, involved in the staging of the skit. University sources said that it had constituted a disciplinary committee comprising experts as per University Grant Commission (UGC) guidelines to investigate the matter further.

The video grab of a skit staged by students at a college fest, which allegedly deployed a mocking tone and insulted Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Dalits and the reservation system, had gone viral on social media two days ago, drawing the ire of many Dalit organisations and other rights groups. Several Dalit activists staged a protest in front of Jain (Deemed-to-be) University campus in the city on Saturday. Dalit organisations now plan to hold a large protest in the city on February 14.

Department is complainant

The Social Welfare Department has not only taken objection to the development, but is the complainant in the case against the university management with Siddapura Police. In his complaint Madhusudhana K.N., Assistant director, Social Welfare Department, said that the skit not only amounted to caste abuse and defamation of the SC and ST communities, but also had the potential to disturb communal harmony in society. He urged the police to take necessary legal action against all those involved to ensure such incidents do not recur.

The Siddapura Police have not only charged the accused under Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, but also under Sections 153A (vilification or attacks upon the religion, race, place of birth, residence), 149 (unlawful assembly guilty of offence committed in prosecution of common object) and 295A (Deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs).

100 e-buggies at Aero India

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Maini Materials Movement (MMM) plans to deploy 100 electric buggies to smoothen the movement of delegates and visitors at Air Force Station Yelahanka, for Aero India 2023.

Two models of the e-buggies, 6 and 11 seaters, would be made available between February 13 and 17 at the venue where the annual aero show would be held, said the Bengaluru-based MMM in a statement. These e-buggies would carry delegates and visitors between meetings and exhibition stalls and other parts of the expo area spread across over 59 lakh square meters, it said.

The EV firm would employ 110 crew members (buggy operators) and 20 additional staff to ensure quick availability of buggies to visitors/delegates. Some 730 exhibitors would be participating at this edition of Aero India and 5.5 lakh people are expected to visit the expo in five-days.

Rush for rehearsal leads to traffic snarls for hours

The Hindu Bureau

The full and final dress rehearsal of Aero India 2023 on Saturday turned out to be a nightmare for motorists travelling on Bellary Road. Many ambulances were seen stuck in the traffic, while some passengers complained of missing their flights due to traffic snarls.

Massive traffic snarls on the busy road which connects the city and Air Force Station in Yelahanka, the venue of the airshow and also Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), were seen on Saturday. Traffic began piling up on the road as early as 7 a.m. and commuters who were heading to the Air Force Station and KIA had to endure bumper-to-bumper traffic.

The traffic snarls on Saturday have raised concerns over the traffic situation on the busy road through next week when Aero India will be held from Monday to Friday. The last two days when public will be allowed to visit the event, will be as bad as Saturday, it is feared.

What led to it

A free entry for the rehearsal on Saturday led to unexpected crowd with 12,000 vehicles on the busy Airport Road, resulting in congestion, said the police. While there were heavy vehicles carrying defense personnel and their family members parked on the road due to overflow at the designated parking lot, random parking on the highway by people to catch a glimpse of the rehearsals made matters worse.

"What would have been a 10-minute drive from Cauvery Theatre junction to Air Force Station Yelahanka turned out to be a two-hour drive. This happened not even during the peak hour traffic but as early as 7 a.m.," said a visitor to the dress rehearsal.

Commuters stuck in a massive traffic jam on the airport road, between Yelahanka and IAF Air Force Station, due to the Aero India dress rehearsal, in Bengaluru on Saturday. K. MURALI KUMAR

The flyovers and service road were all choked with vehicles which did not move an inch for several minutes. Many commuters blamed the traffic police for poor traffic management as there was minimal presence of police personnel on the route.

Once the rehearsals got over by 11.55 a.m., the visitors exited the Air Force Station in Yelahanka. However, several traffic diversions were enforced causing further inconvenience to the commuters. On a few stretches connected the Bellary Road and Gate No. 8 & 8A of Air Force Station, Yelahanka asphalting works were being carried out on Saturday.

Restrictions on Monday

Taking a lesson from Saturday's chaos, traffic police officials said that the elevated road on Bellary Road from Esteem Mall will be closed for all types of vehicles between 8.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. on Monday in view of the Aero India inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Vehicles only with valid passes for the Aero India show will be allowed.

The traffic police said that people going towards Yelahanka and adjoining areas may take service road below the elevated road.

People going to Kempegowda International Airport may take alternate roads from Hennur Junction to reach the airport, the official release said.

Mechanic arrested on charge of molesting minor girl

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Viveknagar police on Friday arrested a 20-year-old mechanic for molesting an 8-year-old girl who was going to school on Ejipura Main Road on Thursday.

The victim is the daughter of a labourer couple who has migrated from Bihar. On Thursday morning, the victim was walking to the school while her mother was left behind as she was locking the door. A few minutes later, when the mother started walking on the same road, she did not find her daughter and panicked for a few minutes. While she was looking for her, the girl screamed out for help and came running out of a partially closed mechanic shop and reached her with soiled clothes, scared and shivering .

The victim said that the accused dragged her inside the shop, downed the shutters and molested her. When she tried to resist, the accused even threatened her with dire consequences. Based on the complaint, the police arrested the accused charging him under POCSO Act, 2012.

K.R. Puram-Whitefield metro line to open after March 15

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), which is carrying out trial runs on the K.R. Puram to Whitefield line, is confident of opening it for commercial operations after March 15.

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, in his address to the joint session of the state legislature on Friday (February 10), said the line would be ready in March.

The extended Purple Line at Whitefield in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

BMRCL has already started submitting records to the Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety, which gives the final go-ahead after safety checks. The safety inspections are likely to happen by February 20.

"BMRCL carried out a high-speed trial run in which the train touched a speed of 80 kmph. Next week, on certain stretches, the train will be operated at 90 kmph. The BMRCL will also deploy five train sets to complete service trials. When we carried out trial runs, we submitted the records to the competent authority. By February 10, we are likely to complete the formalities. By February 20, the Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety is expected to inspect the line with the officials. After the inspection, the BMRCL will comply with the instructions," Mr. Anjum Parvez, MD, BMRCL, said.

The official added that installing a passenger amenities system and automatic fare collection gate enabling common mobility cards and other transactions had reached an advanced stage.

On the extended Purple Line from Baiyappanahalli to Whitefield, BMRCL will open 12 metro stations. The Benniganahalli metro station, located between K.R. Puram and Baiyappanahalli, will be opened later (likely by mid-year). Due to open web girder work across the Bengaluru-Salem railway line near Benniganahalli, the BMRCL cannot open the entire line of 15 km (from Baiyappanahalli to Whitefield) at one go.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, FEB. 12		
RISE	06:43	SET 18:24
RISE	23:46	SET 10:52
MONDAY, FEB. 13		
RISE	06:43	SET 18:25
RISE	00:00	SET 11:35
TUESDAY, FEB. 14		
RISE	06:43	SET 18:25
RISE	00:41	SET 12:22

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	21
Mysuru	33	13
Bengaluru	31	17

Bengaluru Today
31°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
31°C A dry weather to continue. Day will be slight warm. Night will be slight cool with haze and mist.

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Two murdered in separate incidents

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A goods vehicle driver was bludgeoned to death by his neighbour at a bar on Alasahalli Main Road in Varthur on Friday night .

The deceased Muniyappa, 45, and the accused Sridhar, a vegetable vendor, were residents of Nekkundi in Dommasandra and known to each other. Muniyappa used to complain about Sridhar's bad company and affairs to his father regularly Sridhar got to know that it was Muniyappa who was creating problems between him and his father and was waiting for the opportunity to teach him a lesson.

On Friday night, Sridhar noticed Muniyappa walking into the bar after work, followed him and attacked with iron rod and escaped. The profusely bleeding Muniyappa was rushed to a nearby hospital where the doctors declared him brought dead. The Varthur police registered a case of murder against Sridhar and arrested him within a few hours of the incident.

In another incident, a 25-year-old delivery executive was stabbed to death over old enmity in K.S. Layout on Friday night.

The deceased Sharath had a face off with the accused Lokesh and Santosh who belonged to his rival gang. Both the accused and the deceased were waiting for an opportunity to attack each other . On Friday, Sharath confronted Lokesh and Santosh and tried to attack, but in retaliation the duo overpowered him, and Lokesh who was carrying a knife, stabbed Sharath and escaped. The K.S. Layout Police have registered a case of murder.

IN THE HON'BLE COURT OF LXXXVIII ADDL. CIVIL JUDGE, AT BANGALORE
COMM.A.A.NO.32 OF 2021 (CCH-89)
BETWEEN : M/S PERFECT AGRITECH,
A Partnership Concern, Having its Office at 34, Ahilya Mata Colony, 101, Siddarth Apartment, Indore - 452003. Madhya Pradesh.
By its Authorized Signatory
Mr. Kushal Kalyani, aged about 50 years.
...Petitioner
AND : Smt. Tamron Astra Bio-Chemicals Pvt Ltd & Others ...Respondents
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT NO.5 UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 (1-A) OF C.P.C.
5. SRI. NARMADA. J,
Head, Supply Chain and Corporate Affairs, M/s Tamron Astra Bio-Chemicals Pvt. Ltd.,
R/at No.799, MIG, 2nd Phase, B Sector, Double Road, Sandeep Unnikrishnan Road, New Town, Yelahanka, Bangalore - 560064.
Whereas, the Petitioner has filed the above suit against you and others for recovery of money and other Reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court either in person or through a Counsel on the **24th day of February 2023 at 11.00 AM** to defend the above case, failing which the matter will be heard and decided exparte in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of the court this **10th day of February 2023.**
By order of the Court, Sheristedar City Civil Court , Bangalore.
R. CHANDRASHEKAR,
Law Park Associates, No.13 & 14, Ground Floor, Gold Tower, Residency Road, Bangalore - 560025.

Government of Karnataka
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Div., Chitradurga.
NO.EE/MI&GWD DIV/CTA/PB1&3/TENDER NOTIFICATION:52/2022-23 **DATE: 10-02-2023**
SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION (TWO COVER) KW-4
Item rate tender in One and two cover system as per KTPP act-2000 with latest amendments is invited from the eligible Class-III & Above contractors registered in KPWD & CLASS -I contractors registered in Electrical Contractor (KW4) (Minimum amount put to Tender-Rs. 400.00 Lakhs and Maximum amount put to Tender Rs. 500.00 Lakhs) for the 03 works through e-procurement portal.
Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-procurement website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 22.02.2023 Last Date & Time for enquiries about tender 08.03.2023 upto 05:30 P.M., Last Date for submission of Tenders 09.03.2023 upto 04:00 P.M. Opening of Technical bid Date: 10.03.2023 after 04:30 P.M (If possible). Opening of Finanical bid Date 13.03.2023 after 04:30 P.M (If possible). Tenders may be submitted along with EMD and tender fee (Mode of payment should be online only as prescribed in website). Amount mentioned in e-portal is final for the amount put to tender & the E.M.D. Additional Information regarding works may be obtained from the Division Office during office hours & from e-procurement help desk No.080-25501216 & 080-25501227.
RO No. 990: DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/2022-23
Sd/- Executive Engineer

Highs and lows: Violetta Sierova and Ivan Khobta of Ukraine compete in the ISU championships. AFP

Up in the air: Sara Conti and Niccolo Macii of Italy performed several daredevil moves during the event in Finland. AFP

Fine balance: Anastasia Vaipan-Law and Luke Digby of Britain at the ISU championships. AFP

Strength and grace: Sophia Schaller and Livio Mayr of Austria perform in Finland. AFP

On the edge: Bronze medalists Ellie Kam and Danny O'Shea at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in California. GETTY IMAGES/AFP

Photo finish: Lucrezia Beccari and Matteo Guarise of Italy in Finland. AP

Software engineer detained over suspected terror links

National Investigation Agency picks up one more after conducting raids in Maharashtra

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sleuths from the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the Internal Security Division (ISD) of the Karnataka police picked up a software engineer from the city for his alleged links with proscribed terror organisations, early on Saturday.

Sources in the Karnataka police said he had allegedly planned and attempted to shift his family to Afghanistan, through Iran.

The NIA, in a statement, said that it conducted raids at Thanisandra in Bengaluru, and at Palghar and Thane in Maharashtra and detained two terror suspects.

Mohammed Arif, picked up from Bengaluru, is in his early 30s and is married and has a son.

Influenced by propaganda material

The family resided in a rented accommodation at Thanisandra. He was working for a well-known software firm for the past two years. Arif was allegedly self-radicalised online, heavily influenced by propaganda material of the Islamic State and was allegedly in constant touch with handlers online.

"Inputs revealed that these two suspects were in contact with foreign-based online handlers affiliated to proscribed terrorist organisations over encrypted communication platforms, and that they were involved in a conspiracy to radicalise youth over social media and provoke them to indulge in acts of violence and terrorism," the NIA said in a statement.

Red flag

A senior official from the Karnataka police said Arif had applied for a visa with the Iran embassy for his entire family, but had provided only one-way tickets to Iran, raising the red flag.

This set alarm bells ringing as Iran was often used as a route to illegally infiltrate into Afghanistan, the official claimed.

Two labourers killed in wall collapse

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two labourers were killed while one escaped narrowly when a part of the wall of a three-storeyed old building they were demolishing, collapsed on them in Mahalakshmi Layout on Saturday.

The deceased are Imanullah, 33, and Sirajulla, 40, both from North India. According to the police the victims and the JCB were engaged in demolishing the old structure situated on 10th Cross behind Rajajinagar metro station . While the duo was working, a part of the wall collapsed burying them under a heap of debris at around 4.30 pm. Though others immediately rushed to their help, it took time before the debris could be cleared and they were rushed to a nearby private hospital. By then they had succumbed to their injuries, police said.

The police have taken up a case of causing death due to negligence against the owner of the house and the contractor.

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- (Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics)

B.Tech.
- Computer Science and Medical Engineering (Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics)

Engg. Group – B
(Admission through Interview)
B.Sc. and B.Sc. (Hons) Computer Science
- (Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics)

B.Sc.
- Bioinformatics
- Data Science

Engg. Group – C
(Admission through Interview)
M.Sc.
- Artificial Intelligence
- Data Analytics
- Medical Bioinformatics

Online Application Registration Fee of Rs.1000/- (Rupees One thousand only)

Online Application Open from	16.02.2023 - Thursday		
Last date for online application submission	Group A: 07.04.2023	Group B: 20.04.2023	Group C : 25.05.2023
Date of Examination / Interview	Group A (Examination) 16.04.2023	Group – B (Interview) 27.04.2023 28.04.2023	Group – C (Interview) 05.06.2023
Centre for Examination / Interview	Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research (DU), Porur, Chennai-600116		

For Prospectus, online application visit website:
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A SPACE MARKETING INITIATIVE

Aero India 2023

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The runway to a billion opportunities

The Runaway to a Billion Opportunities - Aero India Show 2023

Asia's Biggest Air Show AeroIndia 2023 returns to Bengaluru. Aero India 2023, the biennial air show and aviation exhibition, will be held from 13-17 February. The Yelahanka Air Force Station in Bengaluru, which has hosted the Aero India show since 1996, continues to be the venue. It is organised by the Defence Exhibition Organisation, Ministry of Defence. This would be Aero India's 14th edition. A large number of Indian and foreign exhibitors are participating, besides aircraft, both military and civilian, would be on display. The five-day event, on the theme 'Aerospace and Defence Technologies - Way Forward', will be the largest-ever aero show organised at Air Force Station, Yelahanka, in a total area of around 35,000 sq m. Bengaluru has been successfully organising several editions of Aero India, the event is shaping Karnataka as an epicenter of aviation and aerospace industry. The Aero India event aims to provide a rare chance for the exchange of information, ideas, and developments in the aviation industry. It would help the Make in India movement and boost the domestic aviation industry. The Indian Air Force will put on a performance during the course of the event's five days. International leaders, important aerospace investors, and prominent think tanks will also be present at the event.

BEML AT AERO INDIA 2023

Showcasing its capabilities in Defence and Aerospace Sectors

BEML is showcasing some of its prime products during AERO INDIA 2023, the biennial mega Aero exhibition, being held at Yellahanka Airbase, Bangalore from Monday 13th Feb to Friday 17th Feb. 2023. With the theme of 'Atmanirbharata'; BEML is being to display its niche products such as Variants of Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) and structure of space vehicle along with critical components in the aero-space sector & Miniature Models of its defence equipment.

BEML's focus at AERO Show is to showcase its capability, promote Aerospace & Defence products and to interact with potential customers and also to explore collaborations. BEML would be signing MoUs, to enter into collaborations with major players in the Defence & Aerospace Business.

BEML would also be using the opportunity to network with MSMEs and Start-ups to maximize its efforts of localization / indigenization.

BEML is also displaying the 25 kg Class Tactical UAV being developed indigenously in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur. The UAV is intended to carry versatile payloads of 3.0 kg, such as day & night cameras. It can take off and land in short runways, fly continuously for 8 hours and has 50 kms radio range.

BEML Limited, the leading multi-technology, multi-product company, is engaged in the design, development and manufacturing of a wide range of products for core sectors of economy such as Defence, Mining, Power, Infrastructure and Urban Transportation. Presently over 87% of total business is won against tough competition mainly from MNCs, while above 68% of the business comes from in-house R&D developed products. BEML Limited has exported its products to over 68 countries.

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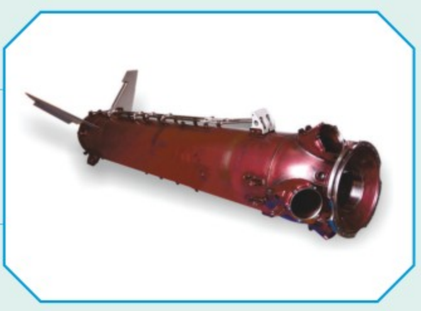

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Stall No. E 3.2 & 3.3

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Mr Bhanu Prakash Srivastava, CMD, BEL

BEL AT AERO INDIA 2023

BEL will showcase state-of-the-art products and systems spanning every domain of its business at the 14th edition of Aero India 2023. The products and systems to be on display have been clustered as 'Communication', 'Electro-Optics and Laser', 'EW and Avionics', 'Homeland Security & Smart Cities', 'Medical Electronics', 'Naval Systems', 'Network Centric Systems', 'Radar and Fire Control Systems', 'Tank Electronics and Gun Upgrade', 'Weapon System', and 'Outdoor Display Products'. In addition, BEL will also showcase its R&D capabilities by launching / demonstrating some of its new products and technologies. The company has set up an Experience Centre at its stall to showcase its Voice Analysis Software and Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality for Universal Simulator.

The highlight of BEL's outdoor display will be Weapon Locating Radar (mountain version), Akash Air Defence System, Ant-Radiation Decoy System, Surveillance Radar, Air Defence Fire Control Radar, Automatic Manpack SATCOM Terminal, Anti Drone System and Mobile Communication Terminal. The entire set of state-of-art equipment on offer will be a force multiplier for any Defence force and civilian requirements.

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Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

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Matrimonial

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BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

BUSINESS

SENGUNTHA MUDALIYAR 27/170cms,MBBS, MS,Elite Business Family,Chennai, Seeks Bridegroom in Elite Family with Business Background.Ct: 9150733848

COSMOPOLITAN

SM4 GAZIABAD based beautiful Yadav girl, 29/5ft 4inch Graduate, Diploma, B.Ed, spiritually inclined, mobile– 8010607806, 8743973401

DIVORCEE

HINDU MUDALIAR 25 yrs good looking BE(CSE) MBA employed at ICICI Bank divorced (within a month) well settled family in Chennai seeks businessman prefrd from Chettiyar, Naidu background. Ct:9841162688.email id: lokesh0814@gmail.com

Vishwa Karma Tamil 38 years of age Innocent Divorcee Girl BA DCA Rishabam Rasi and Mirugashirisam no child seeks a good looking Graduate Boy age group between 39-45 years. Contact: 98430-21512, 94433-21512.

NAIDU/ 29yrs, Divorcee B.Com MBA, working in MNC seeks Edu.Groom from good family. Cont: 81484 28769.

DOCTOR

SUNNI MUSLIM MBBS bride 25 5ft 2inch parents seeking alliance from Doctors/Engineers 9940275382 tasneemhyder3@gmail.com

MATCHING HINDU Tamil Doctor Groom for a MBBS DNB OG 29yr158cm Fair Hindu BC Saliyar– Weaving– Works in Pvt Med College Chennai Ct 9444141815

HINDU TAMIL 38Y Govt Doctor MD Gynaecology, Chennai CNB prefer Doctor/Engineer/ Businessman Ct 9514518555

DOCTOR GIRL MD Anesthesiology 33/ 165 fair pretty cultured & well mannered Chennai based doctors family. Father Doctor Kerala Nair, Mother Tamil CSI. Doctor grooms MD MS MCh DM & Engineers from good family background prfd. 9840050381/ 9840985383

ENGLISH

R.C. ANGLO-INDIAN Girl 29 Years B.A., Computer Diploma Course 1 year. Employed. R.C. ANGLO-INDIAN Boys with Sober Habbits, and good family background, only need apply. 0474-2790757, 7034835851

GOVT / QUASI GOVT

SOUTH INDIAN Jaipur based RC Girl 30/162cm,MBA,PSU Bank Officer, Looking for English/Hindi speaking, Professionally qualified RC Match. Contact nbsjaipur@rediffmail.com

GROOM, CHENNAI working for 32/165, M.E.,Ph.D.GEC, No siblings for parents Hindu AD / Vellalar Settled in Chennai matri9757@gmail.com

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

1985 BORN Doctor working All India Civil Services in Chennai Group A No Sibling Expecting equal Cadre CNB matri9757@gmail.com

KERALITE HINDU SC girl, 06/04/1988, 158cm, MBBS, Dy Director (DooraDarshan), Delhi. Civil Service officers, Doctors, Engineers preferred. 8589881011

HINDU ADI–DRAVIDA, 26/162,daughter of high positioned parents and Chennai based. Bride doing full time PhD in Architecture.Looking for well educated professionally successful groom (other than business) in government/PSU or reputed private establishments in India/ Abroad.Contact: 9884393878/ 9080501633

KANNADA

HINDU VOKKALIGA 28, BE from Coimbatore, Seeks Groom from the same Community. Contact: 9791768175

1986 GOWDA CBE BE IT 17lpa BLR Hindu Divorcee 8722808585

MALAYALAM

USA BASED Engineer Menon Girl 31 155cm Utthirattathi Engineers / Professionals settled /working in USA preferred Contact +919900551144

THE HINDU
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MALAYALAM

Doctor1994 born Nair Girl MD(RAD) Fellowship MSK, FRCR(UK) Fair Hyd Settled Seeking Alliance from Dr/CA/ IAS/IPS/ Govt Officer Contact: 8179228580 & 7993748584

VADHOOLA GOTHRAM, Karthika 4th Padam, 12.02.1992 / 165 cm, M.Tech from NUS Singapore, PhD from University of Paris. Currently doing Post Doctorate in Cambridge UK. Seeks Groom from respectable Iyer family. Professionally qualified with clean habits. Max age difference 4 years. Contact: 00971506240520. Email: balasiva@emirates.net.ae

REMARRIAGE-GIRL (32/142) MS. Employed in USA. TVPM based upper middle class-vegetarians preferred. Proposals from parents of professionals, settled in US. No.9778732357.

NRI

WELL SETTLED well educated Gujarati Brahmin family seeking alliance for citizen daughter 32, 5ft 5inch working as a Bank Manager with leading bank. Groom preference: 30–38 yrs,5'8 and up, CPA, CA, Dentist, Doctor, Engineer, IT, Pharmacist willing to settle abroad. Caste: Brahmin, Punjabi Hindu, Baniya, Vaishnava, Other state brahmin. Contact only through Whatsapp: +91 8320895478

TAMIL (CNB) 31/163cm, employed in IT, Seeks Groom in Ireland. Ph no. +9194435 64798

HINDU TAMIL Girl Aged 24, 172 cm Tall, and Computer Science Graduate from a Premier Institute. She is a Software Engineer working in New York City and is Well rounded, Compassionate, Confident, and Intellectual. Seeking a Groom who is a US Citizen, raised in the US, and Currently Living in the US. It is important to her that her Future Partner Shares Similar Values and comes from a Good Family.Drop an Email to: DearPapaPand@gmail.com or Call us +1 862–294–0439

TAMIL

SEEKING CHRISTIAN Born Again, Qualified Groom for a girl, 24yrs/ 162cm, B.Tech, MBA working for S/W Co. in Chennai. Call– 9940655183, WhatsApp– 00971501966730

CSI NADAR, 98–March born, 5ft 2in, B.E., working as Hardware Engineer in Chennai. wants well qualified professional from good Christian family in India/abroad. Contact 9840691230

ROMAN CATHOLIC 40/152, Govt, 300000 PA Seeks Suitable Boy CNB. 98434 61157

CSI CHRISTIAN, Girl,30 / 5'4",B.E , working (WFH) . Seeking suitable boy settled in chennai,in same community with Master degree works in private/govnment sector. Contact:9361955235

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Girl Fair, Good Looking, 03–04–1986 born / 152cm / M.Sc M.Phil, working as Assistant Professor in a Reputed Women's College, Mount Road, Chennai. Both Parents Doctors (Private), Suitable Alliance, Employed / Settled in Chennai / With Clean Habits from Same Community. Contact: 9841182514

CHRISTIAN ROMAN Catholic Adi Dravida well groomed convent educated software engineer girl working in Chennai, 25 years 154 cm 67 kg for early marriage. Kindly contact 8929240890.

MUSLIM INNOCENT Divorcee, No child, PG Dr. Bride, Fair Age 31, 160cm, practicing in Australia seeking alliance Dr., Er., any professional Degree willing to settled in Australia. Contact: H. Adambasha 98403 97405

CATHOLIC VELLALAR Girl 30 /171 MBBS Pursuing PG Texas, USA Seeks professional from USA. Ct: 9150153743

CSI Christian 28/164 M.Com. Mphil, Phd,working Asst.Prof. reputed college Chennai seeks professional, well Employed Groom, 28-30yrs,Caste no bar 7358601795 - wincydavie@gmail.com

UNMARRIED GIRL age 41, Lab technician prefer unmarried/issueless divorcee/widower RC/Protestant Christian betn 41–45 age from Chennai/ Kerala. Send profile by courier to Thirunavukkarasu c/o. Ditto Advertising Agencies, Survey 47/66, Balaji Avenue, Balamurugan Nagar, Attanthangal, Sozhavaram Post, Chennai 600067

RC DENTIST God fearing Chennai settled. Seeking alliance in Chennai with similar profession. 9385703127

TAMIL

RC ONLY (Nadar, Caste Only No Bar), 32/156, B.Tech., Working in Canada. Cell : 75388 02230

28 / FAIR B.Tech MS, Apple USA seeks USA settled groom.Caste no bar. Ph: 94441 23278 / 94441 83145

HINDU S.C,AGE:24,B.E.GRADUATE working in IT.Wanted grooms in IT/ Doctor/C.Govt. Ph:9444283352, 22241557

BE MBA , Hindu SC Adi dravida , Female age 29. Working in Accenture. Contact 9444991091. Seeking groom.

PILLAI/MUDALIAR, 33, Good looking, MBBS, MD Final yr, Well Settled family seeks Groom aged 33-36 yrs, Engineer/ Business/ Doctor. 9345855735

DKV 31/164 fair B.Tech (NIT) MBA (IIT), MNC Chennai seeks bridegroom from educated family. Ct: 9940507235

MUDALIAR /PILLAI 35/154 fair Hastham MCA Uppr Mid Cls Chennai Seeks Prof Quaf Workg in Corp Co 8220757159

MUDALIAR (CNB) 26/V.Fair & Beautiful, MBBS, MS Doing, Chennai, Business Family, Seeks Groom Doctor / Business / Eng – 7305810258

H.GAYATHRI 45, BSc,BEd, R. Harikrishnan, Shenoy Ngr Chennai–30 Dip.Deg. Caste NoBar 9500168187/ 8248990877

AD 27/160 Dr,working seeks groom, well settled,edu- tamil fmly blw 31yrs Govt/Dr/Engr/bankofficers.9444220872

MUDALIAR 30/165CM MD–GM doing DM Cardiology seeks Mudaliar/Pillai PG Doctors. Geetham 9884858014

35 B.COM MBA Pillai Anusham Raghu in lagnam Divorcee seeks suitable groom and also with children below 10 years are acceptable 9094020665

MUDALIYAR 25 / 156cm Doctor of Pharmacy Seeks Suitable well settled Doctor / Engineer Groom from Tamil Nadu and Abroad also pref. 8608728903

AGAMUDAYA MUDALIAR MBBS, 25/170, Avitam, Fair, Seeks suitable Groom same Community within Tamilnadu. Call : 9789183986, Email: lakshmianbu3030@gmail.com

VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYAR, 25/164 Fair B.E seeks Groom from Same Caste. Contact with details to: 9840028346

MUDALIAR/ AGAMUDAIYAR, 37yrs, Divorcee without issues, M.D.,temporarily employed in Government seeks suitable groom. Caste No Bar. 8056868090

SC,AD 33/172/B.TECH(NIT) Manager Govt Bank Divorced (Unconsummated Marriage). Contact: 8939574245

HINDU NADAR 26, MBBS/MD, 168cm, Income 75000 Pm, Seeks Suitable Groom. KA Raman Nadar 9380791999

TAMIL YADAVA 25 Mirugasirisham Mithunam M.Tech IIT Aerospace Design Engineer Bangalore seeks equally qualified groom 9003149310/ 9840149310

HINDU MUDALIAR Midhunam/ punarpoosam 26/157 MSW(TISS) working in Coal India Ltd(CPSU),Odisha as Exeutive seeks suitable groom, preference CPSU, Central Govt Job. Contact: 9884396170/9884392170/9444241757 email: velavanmanjula@gmail.com

AGAMUDAYA MDLR 1997 born, 5'9" ht, Revathi star, B.Arch from SPA Delhi, Shareholder Banglr Arch.Co., Elite, Affluent family in VLR Ct.9894642497

HINDU VELLALAR Pillai / Mudaliar Bharani / Mesham 35/162 Govt Doctor MD (Paed.), seeks Suitable groom upto 38yrs. Cont : 9791216028

BEMBA, Hindu SC Adidravida, Tamil Girl 25/ 5'2". Mrigasesam/ Mithunam. Working in MNC B'lore. Contact: 9449708965/ sivaec28@gmail.com Seeking alliance from same community.

MUDALIAR 45/163 MEMS UK Uthiratathi seeks PG Ers/Drs UK/US CNB. Geetham 9884858014

PILLAI / Mudaliar 27 MS, 5.6" Pooradam. Working in Germany. Looking for suitable Groom living / Working in Europe (or) willing to move. Ph: 97909 65245

DIVORCEE HINDU Nadar 29 Fair Slim Rich Girl seeks suitable Groom. CT: 98424-17156.

VAANIYA Chettiar - 25/Avittam/MBA Pure Vegetarian seeks decent and well settled family. Groom should be broad minded and teetotler. No Dowry. CNB. parents Ct: 9043744699, 9489813569. Email: vgsdev22@gmail.com

VANNIYAR, FAIR & Good Looking educated girl, 26/163cm, B. Tech, MBA seeks suitable educated match with Good family background. Ct. 9176667578

TAMIL

ELITE MUDALIYAR, 23 / B.E., (Own Colleges, Schools, Jewellery) Family Seeking Groom. Ct: 72002 59760

CSI NADAR Fair Doctor Girl aged 23 well Settled Doctors Family Seeks Groom drrajendranaltmed@yahoo.co.in

PURE VEG Groom w/o Expectation for Girl 27, 5.5 ft. Fair, MSc, BEd, Pvt Schl Job Iyer Punarvasu CNB 8754663375.

AUG 1979 born Associate Professor in Engg. College, Hastham star, KanniRasi Fair Homely Girl seeks Educated Groom from Thuluva Vellala Mudaliyar. Ct 9840477890 / 044–42647373.

DOCTOR PARENTS invite post Graduate Doctor Grooms for their fair, beautiful girl M.S(O.G) working in Govt Hospital at Chennai, belongs to Pillai Community born on 1992. Contact: 98431 44420

TAMIL YADAVA Dentist, 29/153 Fair, Smart , working in Chennai, seeks groom. Please message to 9444721694

INTER CASTE Parents seek for daughter 27/156 SWE employed Chennai, from suitable Hindu groom. 90032 87101

SC AD 25/B.Tech., [IT] Cent.Govt. Job (Officer NABARD) 80,000 p.m. Seeks Bridegrooms. Ph.7397674481

TAMIL

VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYAR 28/151 fair, HR, B.E MBA seeks Engineering Graduate, same caste. Ct:9445689507

Iyer/30/5'3, Moolam-4, Working in Bangalore seeks Iyer Boy from a decent background. Cont: 9471720474

DKV/Pallan 26yrs B.E, Fair,well settled Fmly, Chennai. Father Sr. Engr Rly (R) Mother DGM- ONGC seeks Groom with clean habits, same Caste, Govt. Empld/PSU.8148949077/9445005474

HINDU 27 Sadhayam Asst. Prof leading Paramedical College Cbe, Seeks well Settled & Empld Cbe Groom from Thuluva or Kongu Vellalar. Apply with BHP to murukesan18257@gmail.com

MUSLIM GIRL 21/162cm BE(CSE) Very Fair Selected in MNC Chennai well to do fmly in Chennai.9445556810

HINDU, SC/Adidravidar, 37/163, Fair, Slim, Good looking, B.Tech (CSE), SWP, Never Married, Moolam-3, Dhanusu, Chennai seeks, professionally Qualified Groom with Good Family background from India/Abroad. Caste-no-Bar. Cont : 87545 66571.

TELUGU

30 YEARS 5.5" Sadhayam Fair Good Looking,B.E Naidu Chennai Girl annulled Marriage Seeks Groom below 36 India / Abroad, CNB Ct: 9500009694

BRIDES WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

Handsome Doctor working U.S.A New York Brooklyn Hospital. Vellalar, T.N Affluent Seeks beautiful U.S.M.L.E passed or U.S settled, below 30 years, sub-sects & Caste no bar. Contact: 9487830391, 9750144781

BRIDE WANTED
Professional (Master Mariner) Tamil or English Speaking Gentleman Seeking life partner, Single or with I Child
WhatsApp: +60122764928
Email: trbsr8@yahoo.com

SAIVA PILLAI 34, 5ft 8inch, fair and handsome, BE (Telecom), Officer Indian Army Tech Branch, 24 lacs PA, son of retd army officer looking for affable and well educated girl. Equal and sub caste no bar. 9448307862.

DOCTOR

29/187/NAIDU, MS (GS)/divorced. Seeking unmarried Doctor bride UG/ PG clinical/from any naidu community. Ph:73391 57563.

TAMIL

CSI CHRISTIAN Handsome 30, 175cm BE/MNC Chennai/ 9 Lac PA Seeks Chennai, Bangalore Based Girl. 6379397599

CHRISTIAN, 40/170, never married, B.E. software engineer, settled in chennai, seeks well educated girl from elite family, Caste no bar, Religion no bar, CT–9500188067

AFFLUENT/UPPMDLCLASS HINDU/TAMIL Boy (27/5'7/BE/MNC Blore) well edu fmly seeking enterprising girl from similar background. Caste No–Bar, Plz Call 9449057239

TAMIL BRAHMIN Vadama Kaushikam Revathi 44/183, CA, partner–leading audit firm, Coimbatore innocent divorcee, honest looking for suitable bride, Subsect no bar. CT: 89403 11123, email: soundarya19801@gmail.com

HINDU PURE Veg Age–44 1st Marriage, M.A. Govt B'Grde – Slry 86K above, Seeks Any Caste Veg Bride or Willing to Veg, below Age 38 only. Ct Whtsp : 8903747433 & 9626370329

68 HINDU Yadav Business Good Health Needs Like Minded Life Partner 50-60 to Care Home & Business at Trichy. 97869 85957

HINDU, 56 Yrs, Healthy, Well Settled, Govt. Executive, Separated, seeks Broad minded, Well settled, Independent Lady above 45, as a Soul mate and Life Companion, Caste No Bar Contact: 73970 87032, mail: mducbe18@gmail.com

DKV 33/173 Hastham Manager Govt. Bank seeks suitable bride from educated family. Caste No bar. 9940507235

NAIDU 34/175 MBA, Working in USA, Seeks Educated Girl from decent Family. CNB. Ct: 9444390833

ROMAN CATHOLIC 35, 162 B.Tech, Govt Sector, Salary 60000 pm send profile to vtre951@gmail.com

HINDU SC Adidravidar, Age 35, MTech Civil Engineer, Thiruvonam Magaram,Working in Dubai. Ct: 9600382674

AGAMUDAI MUDALIAR 34 years 168cms BE Civil engineer Abudhabi 4lakhs/ month Raghu Ketu dosham seeks suitable bride CNB.cont 9003575687

MUDALIAR BE,CHENNAI 1985,Fair, Well Settled, Any Degree Emp/Unemploy Decent Family. 9952010118, 8610518808

RICH MUDALIAR, (Bus Owner 200 Buses), 28 / BE, Well to do Family Seeks Bride. Ct: 72000 67015

✔ **PILLAI(KARUNEEGAR),** DOB:24–01–92, BE, Veg, Job: MNC (Software) Chennai, Annual Income: 23.5 lakhs. Seeking a suitable bride from the same or any other community. Ph: 9841784047 Email: pingme.arul@gmail.com.

INTERCASTE PARENTS (F–chettiar M–saiva Mudaliyar) Seeks Suitable Working Girl (Vegetarian) for their son Age 32(B.E)/Uthiram/178cm s/Fair/SWE,Contact 9710080772

KONGU VELLALAR Gounder 35yrs BE. MNC Bangalore, 13 LPA, UnMarried, seeks suitable Educated Bride from same caste- 9886572314

VAANIYAR CHETTY– 36 Visagam / 176 / MS (Sweden) Working Sweden 60L/pa.(Swedish Citizen & OCI) Seeks (BE /MS / MBA / MCA / CA / Ph.D). prof. Bride, CNB. Cont:9840429799

FC/BC BRIDES for Mudaliar 32years BE, MBA Govt. 80K, 178cm, Own house, Ayilyam, Kadagam. 9444925350

HINDU MUDALIYAR Family Seeks Match Either Sub–caste (or) Pillai community for their Engineer Son Slim 27 / 5.10ft Wheatish Chennai Owns Industry (www.vgsref.com) (www.vgsprayag.com) WhatsApp 9789011077

HINDU – BE /SWE/31/Sc –Caste No Bar/Ayillam –Kadagam . Affluent and educated family settled in Bangalore .Seeking Bride below 28yrs from educated and well settled family. Contact No 9845401461.

GROOM 34,BE, Good Family & Settled, Employed in USA.Seeking Hindu Bride. Caste & Age No Bar. Divorcee Bride also with/without child. email: vedha.880827@gmail.com.C9042021137

HINDU SAIVA Vellalar, 26 yrs/178 cm, B.Tech., MNC employed seeks suitable employed Alliance.Ct: 9003923602

GRADUATE BRAHMIN Bride For Our Son, B.Tech, MBA, 34 Years, Iyer. Please Contact For Details– 9000593734.

SAIVA PILLAI, 49/178, MCA, First Marriage Business in Madurai, 1 Lakh per month seeks suitable Bride. Sub-Caste no bar. Ct: 94421 23404

TAMIL

BRIDE WANTED
Sunni Muslim Tamil speaking parents from elite industrialist family in Chennai, seek well educated, good looking bride for son aged 25, 5' 9" US educated engineer from very affluent family.
Contact: syed296797@gmail.com

TAMIL

MUDALIAR (CNB) 28/Handsome, B.E, M.S(USA) Oil Manufacturing Industry, BusService, Running Own Schools&College Chennai Only Son, Elite Family Seeks Bride Any degree– 8925019776

HINDU 31 Years 185 cm. Currently working in Germany as a Senior Logistics Program Manager after MS in US. Employed in U.S.A for 4 years and two years in Dubai. Well Settled Family. Star Hastham & Backward Community. Seeks well Educated, Hindu Bride (Caste No Bar) for their only Son. Mobile 9840041041

VISHWA Karma Tamil 35 years of age Good looking Boy MBA Dhanus Rasi with clean habits Own Business seeks Graduate homely Girl between 29-34 years of age group. 98430-21512.

59, DECENT, Educated, looks young, well settled, seeking Widow/Divorcee. Contact : 7401489892

BRAHMIN 33, 6.3, Hastham, Bharadwajam, MBA, Mgr pvt Co, Chennai. Wellsettled with Own Ind House.1 Elder Sister Mrrd & Settled. Looking for a Tall UG/PG Girl. Horoscope match not compulsory. Ct: 9600038029

BOYAR DIVORCEE boy 36 Network Engineer workg Australia seeking girls without kids. Ct: 9885359369

NEW ZEALAND well–settled Mudaliyar parents seek bride for their son aged 28, NZ Citizen working for a global company in NZ. Please contact: Mrs. N. Kumar +916303897543 / WhatsApp +64221541505(NZ) / nzmudaliyar@gmail.com

HINDU KONGU Vellala Gounder 36/183 Sadayam, MBA Job & Business 30L pa Working Chennai Upper Middle Class. Suitable Girl, Caste No Bar. Degree Accept. Whatsapp: 9360323979

HINDU VALLUVAN, Swathi, Age 33, 178cm Business, own house, Chennai based seeks good looking and good family bride Ct: 9884629313/ 9342278981

HINDU ACHARY 39Yrs/MBA/Own Industry / 50,000PM Seeks Bride +2& Above, Fair, Sub Caste No Bar. 9944025271

SENIOR DATA Scientist in USA, seeks Bride Working / Studying / Eligible to work in USA. Tamil Hindu Thuluva Vellala Fair upper middle class BE(NIT), M.S (USA), 27/165 Subcaste no bar. CT: 98430-75039.

AGE 46, Govt Employee well settled, seeks suitable Bride good family background, caste no bar, Contact: 86101 87698, 94873 11463

SAIVA PILLAI Karuneegar 38/166 BE, MS, MNC SW 35Lpa Chennai, Seeks Educated, Veg. FC/ BC Bride 9841699176

MUDALIYAR 43 ME Phd professor pvt, Chennai.Rs.1.2 Lpm wanted bride . subcaste ok: 8056782946 & 8056891976.

TAMIL PARKAVAKULA Mooppanar Age 27, 172Cm, MDS (Dentist) Bride Seeking MBBS / Any PG Medicine Caste No Bar. Ct:9443191812

MUDALIAR, 28/173, Chithirai, Kanni, M.S., Engg., Washington DC, Rich and Affluent Family seeks well educated Bride from good family. 7639581703

HINDU MUTHURAJA handsome boy 28/164 Karthigai Rishaba rasi, M.Ar Landscape architect studied & working in U.K (CNB).Seeks bride from any backward community. Ct: 9943086825.

IYER VADAMAL Bharatwajam 36/168cm, Moolam, B.Com.MBA Accenture Chennai,14L P A Sub–sect No Bar 9941298934

SAIVA CHETTIYAR Age 41, 1st Marriage Working in Zee TV Good Salary. Seeks Suitable Bride.Widow & Divorcee also apply. 9994928997/ 9840631076

TAMIL

VANNIAR– WE are looking for an alliance for our son 29/171cm, B Tech (NIT–T) & IIM(L), woking at Bangalore. Working Brides with BTech/BE/M Tech/ MBA may contact 8438711170 or praveenhere93@gmail.com

AD(PR) HINDU TAMIL 04-12-1984 / Ashwini / 178cm / M.Sc, M.Phil Lecturer Private Teetotaler only child Never Married Tiruchirapalli. Seeks Suitable Bride - WA 9443780698.

Kamma Naidu+ Saiva Pillai, MCA/ MNC/ Senior Architect/ 39 LPA/ 45/ 179/ Divorced/ No child/ looking for a suitable Girl/ 35-40 Yrs/ Phone-9445414656, 9444733551

PARENTS OF HINDU NADAR Boy / Tamil/ Chennai /28Y / B.Tech MS (USA) / Fair / 170 / Non Vegn / Software job / working in US–seeks Bride (never married) / decent family /24 to 27 / Fair / Indian Citizen Working or studying in US or visa holder working in india & willing to travel. Mail to bprajan1959@gmail.com.

WIDOW ABOVE 50 looking for a soulmate respond. Brahmin in good health author well settled matured divorced need a decent life partner . 8220822951

HINDU SC 59/171cm BA Pvt Rtd Rs.80000 PA, Wealthy, Widower, No child, seeks suitable bride kind with care. Nobars. 8903016034 / 9791385819

HINDU MUDALIAR 36, 178cm, B.Tech/ MS Working in UK Income 70000/– Caste No Bar Call: 9710093999/ 8939691888

HINDU NADAR 31, BE, 175cm, Income 100000/– Seeks Suitable Bride. K A Raman Nadar 9380791999

HINDU SC Ad 30 MBBS Own Clinic & Pharmacy Father Doctor, TN Govt, Looking for Doctor Bride. Ct:7358813577

Iyengar Vadakalai 34/167 Poorattathi Naithruba Kashyabam. MS Bits Pilani, MNC 2L Pm, own House Coimbatore. Seeks Graduate Girl, Kalai & Subsects no bar. Ct: 9789014553, 8056788367.

ALLIANCE INVITED for a High Profile well established (Flat construction) family in Chennai is looking for a good looking qualified Brahmin girl (Age 30) for their son 34 years handsome M.S. (USA) Hindu Brahmin (Tanjore Dist.,) Email: srkveecons@gmail.com

BRAHMIN 58 Ys Unmarried Electrical Healthy 40K Seeks Any Pure Veg Family Blw 52 Ys Widow Ok. 9840846524

BRAHMIN, 42, ASSOCIATE Project Manager HCL Technologies Madurai, seeks any brahmin girl, Ph: 9487851429

TENKALAI IYENGAR, aged 51 years re–marriage working in Bank seeks any Brahmin bride. Age diff. 4 years. Contact: 8122861862.

Iyer Vadama Koundinya Avittam 42/170 Director Chennai seeks unmarried Tamil Brahmin Girl. Ct: Rajesh 9632152713

ASTASHASRAM, Karthigai, Jun 1969, MBA, M.S, well settled. Seeks Educated 1st Marriage Brahmin brides BHP: sree.lashmi108@gmail.com

VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYA groom 30/165 well educated Software Engineer, US Citizen seeks educated bride 24 - 28yrs from a respectable family. India / Abroad. Caste No Bar
Ct: 94435 18843 82202 34848

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BRAHMIN, 30, 191 cms, Working Professional, ICWA. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Working Professional. Family is affluent with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible match. Contact: 6366448343

MUDALIYAR, 27, 178 cms, Businessman, B.Tech. Lives in Chennai. Belongs to an affluent business family with a good net worth. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366448344

NAIDU, 29, 185 cms, Software Professional, MS. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Working Professional. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448344

MUDALIYAR, 28, 175 cms, Working Professional, MSc. Lives in Australia. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for an affable match. Contact: 6366448343

ADI DRAVIDAR, 29, 173 cms, Doctor, MD/MS. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Working Professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for an amiable match. Contact: 6366448343

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN, 32, 152 cms, Working Professional, MSc. Lives in Mumbai. Father is a Businessman. Family is affluent with a good net worth. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366448343

DEVAR, 28, 157 cms, Medical Professional, MBBS. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Working Professional. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448343

NAIDU, 23, 168 cms, Engineer, BE. Lives in USA. Father is a Businessman. Mother is a Working Professional. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for an affable match. Contact: 6366448344

KARKATHAR, 22, 160 cms, Financial Data Analyst, MS. Lives in USA. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible match. Contact: 6366448344

LINGAYATH, 27, 173 cms, Post Graduate, from a Bangalore based high profile family with very good net worth. Looking for an amiable match from the same community in Bangalore. Contact: 6366448346

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TAMIL

ASTASHASRAM, IYER, Revathi, Oct.1972, B.Sc., Seeks well educated / settled 1st Marriage Iyer Groom BHP: sree.lashmi108@gmail.com

BRIDEGROOM WANTED
CHETTIAR / MUDALIYAR / PILLAI
Educated, affluent business family seeks educated, handsome, groom with high moral values, clean habits from families with similar background for their daughter, (27/173), fair, tall, beautiful, B.Tech Avittam / Magaram Rasi
Contact : 99949-15406

WANTED GROOM
Hindu Nadar Girl, fair, 23 Yrs, 154 cm MBA from well to do family, seeks alliance from educated groom, of reputed family, respond to Whatsapp: +919447133586 or Email: pntcr57@gmail.com

MUDALIAR 26 years fair good looking fair OG PG Seeks renowned businessman / hospital owners alliance ct: 7358777127

Hindu SC/AD 38,Fair,Aswini Mesham, Dr. BAMS. Studying PG, Part time employed seeks unmarried PG/Profesionl chennai based bridegroom.Send BHP 9841815700 / adinithiya@gmail.com

HINDU SC, Adi Dravida, B.E., 154cm/ 27,MNC 16L pa seeks suitable Alliance from same community 9444155781

TELUGU

NAIDU GOVT.OFFICER Working in TN. PSU./ Born 1975,CNB, Seeks Groom. Contact: 9360167989

GAVARA NAIDU 29/170 Fair SWE, USA. Seeks Suitable Boy settled USA or India. Same Caste. Contact : 9442602030 or 7598352230.

VIP KAMMANAIDU, 27 / B.E., M.S., Own (Tractor Manufacturing Comp) Rich Family Seeking Groom. 7200067015

RICH KAMMA Naidu 23/BE, Father Highways & PWD Contractor Affluent Family Seeks Rich Groom. Ct: 7200067015

NAIDU 25/162, Fair, BE,Analyst, IBM, Chennai, Decent Pay, Well Settled Family, CNB. 7299576644, 7299576666

GROOM WANTED
Naidu, 28yrs / 5'4"/ Hastham, M.B.B.S (Doing P.G), Chennai from Educated, Cultured and Affluent Family Seeking Groom (Tee-Totaler) From Well Educated, Cultured and Decent Family. CNB.
Ct:98848 76246

URDU

SMU, WELL placed, Chennai based Doctor family, seeks alliance for Doctor girl MD 31 years 168 cms from Doctors/ Engineers working in India/ abroad preferably UK. Phone 04442312971/ WhatsApp 9444551651

SUNNI MUSLIM 32/168 Senior position MNC Australia seek Groom well settled from respectable family willing to relocate Australia preferred M:+917305021710 Em: ans2684@gmail.com

MUSLIM GIRL 21/162cm BE(CSE) Very Fair Selected in MNC Chennai well to do fmly in Chennai.9445556810

SMU, Chennai based reputed Business Family seeks Groom for their daughter, 31 /165cm BE., M.S working in Amazon-Polo Alto San francisco, coming to Chennai in February - 2023. Ct: 98841 41181 / 97898 89668.

DOCTOR

DOCTOR Boy (MS ORTHO) 29 yrs servicing in well reputed college and hospital in Tamilnadu seeks doctor bride, who is liberal minded,suitable Hindu match. CNB. Contact:87784 75035

HINDI

1985/175CM. IT. 40 Lakhs PA. Chennai. Father Doctor. Seeks well educated bride. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

MALAYALAM

VELLALA PILLAI 29, software engineer, 172 cm, Bharani, preferred B.Tech & working, TVM, 9446980265.

MBA / CA / ICWA

HINDU BOY, 27/5'9", MBA, drawing 6 digit salary, only son, seeking a suitable educated girl. Preferably chennai only Ph: 9940144106

NRI

LOOKING FOR a Sunni bride within 32 yrs for US born 36 yr male with bachelors degree and working. Please contact with details, ph no. and pics to mbanue101@gmail.com

NAIDU TELUGU 28/180CM, Puratathi, BTech MS working as Research Engr in Sweden, Contact 9566682220

TAMIL

Christian Boy Nadar 35/184cm Divorce BE MBA Project Manager in Chennai IT salary 2.5 Lac Per Month well settled Family seeks Bride Any Degree/ Working. WhatsApp:9840377793

TAMIL MUSLIM, 32 yrs, 168 cm, Handsome, Software Engineer in USA. Seeking educated Bride. Ct: 74163–65065

RC (DKV) 34/ 176 BE, IT 1.3L/pm well settled seeks suitable bride. Caste, Religion No bar. Ct: 9884467912

RC 1973 /165cm MA MBA Govt. Asst. Manager 95K/pm Chennai divorce seeks Bride CNB Contact No:– 8148842983

Continued on Page 6

A day-long public dialogue on 'The Politics of Rape: Justice, Accountability and Healing' was organised at St Joseph's College in Bengaluru on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Activists debate the many ugly faces of sexual violence

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

More than 1,000 people from different backgrounds and organisations took part in the day-long public dialogue on 'The Politics of Rape: Justice, Accountability and Healing' held in Bengaluru on Saturday under the banner of "Karnataka Against Sexual Violence."

This was part of an ongoing campaign launched in Karnataka in response to the release and felicitation of 11 convicted rapists in the case of Bilkis Bano on August 16, 2022, and a spate of sexual assault cases across the State.

Those who participated included students, civil society activists, women's rights' activists, gender and sexual minority community members, sex workers, domestic workers, urban poor among others. They discussed forms of violence, challenges faced by survivors and the systemic failure of the justice system.

Among those who spoke were Vrinda Grover, senior Supreme Court lawyer, Hasina Khan of Bebaak Collective in Mumbai, Meenaxi Bali of Akhil Bharatiya Mahila Janavadi Sanghatane, Stanley of Odanadi Seva Samsthe at Mysuru, and Geeta Menon of Domestic Workers Rights' Union.

The organisers presented a charter of demands, one of which is that the State "review and implement the holistic and progressive recommendations of the Verma Commission Report and the Ugrappa Committee Report that have thoroughly examined the different dimensions of rape and sexual violence in the current context."

Rebate window for traffic violation cases ends; BTP collects over ₹120 cr., resolves 41.2L cases

Bengaluru Traffic Police, which is enthused by the overwhelming response of motorists, has sought an extension of the deadline

Motorists crowd around traffic policemen to pay long-pending traffic fines in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As the 50% rebate window for the resolution of backlog traffic violation cases drew to a close on Saturday, Bengaluru Traffic Police collected over ₹120 crore in fines between February 3 and 11 (till 9 p.m.)

However, as this falls short of the target set by BTP, which is enthused by the overwhelming response to the rebate offer, the police have sought an extension of the rebate period. The State government was yet to extend the deadline.

On Saturday, there were long queues of motorists waiting to pay their dues. Until 9 p.m., 9.45 lakh cases were resolved, and ₹31.26 crore was collected.

With this, a total of 41.2 lakh cases were resolved during the period, and over ₹120 crore was collected, data shared by BTP shows.

"When we started, we had a backlog of 1.13 crore cases, of which only over 41 lakh cases have been resolved. Though the response has been overwhelming in the last week, we aimed to clear the entire backlog. So we have now written to Karnataka State Legal Services Authority and Transport Department seeking an extension of the rebate window," said M.A. Saleem, Special Commissioner, Traffic, Bengaluru.

The idea of a rebate was mooted after a nudge from Karnataka State Legal Services Authority to clear backlog cases. Sources said that any deadline extension for the same also has to come from the Authority.

Lakhs of motorists have been checking for violations against their vehicle numbers and cross-checking the photo and video evidence of the breach uploaded by BTP. This seems to have generated a database of vehicles with fake number plates created to hoodwink law enforcers, the police said.

Traffic fine collected

Date	Cases resolved	Fine amount collected (in ₹)
February 3	2,24,778	7,00,41,121
February 4	3,09,944	9,00,28,620
February 5	2,87,826	7,49,94,870
February 6	3,34,760	9,57,12,420
February 7	3,45,123	9,70,68,700
February 8	3,87,167	10,78,79,110
February 9	5,51,346	14,64,79,400
February 10	7,33,795	21,27,59,420
February 11 (till 9 p.m.)	9,45,887	31,26,76,500
Total	41,20,626	120,76,40,161

Paragliding accident in Kodagu raises safety concerns over adventure tourism in State

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

After a video of a paraglider crash landing owing to an engine failure in Kodagu district recently went viral, questions have been raised on poor regulation of adventure sports in Karnataka. In Kodagu, this is the second such accident reported in recent days. On January 15, a paraglider had to do a crash landing on a village road owing to an engine failure. The two paraglider-borne men, including the pilot, survived the crash landing while a car was seen coming from the other side which went sideways at the right time so that the paragliders landed safely. All this was recorded on a CCTV camera.

The locals say that such adventure activities lead to fear among local residents as the organisers do not take enough safety measures and lack expertise. "The paragliding accident that happened recently on the main road in our village Nittur has concerned the local people. We have spoken to the people who are running the paragliding activities and they have promised that this incident will not recur. However, we are living in fear," said Cariappa M.P., a resident of Nittur. The pilot of the paraglider and co-passenger were rushed to hospital and both survived with multiple injuries. Muthanna, the pilot, said that he has permission from the district administration and received training to fly the paraglider and has experience of four months.

Two paragliders survived a crash landing recently in Kodagu district due to an engine failure. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Concerns on safety

Meanwhile, such incidents have raised concerns over the need for safety precautions and guidelines in the state to crack down on illegal operators and inexperienced flyers. Paragliding, kayaking, bouldering, rock climbing, mountain biking, motocross, scuba diving, are well-known adventure sports in the state in recent years according to State Tourism Department officials. "In Karnataka, water, land and air based adventurous activities are increasing, but there are illegal operations and the risks associated with them are also increasing. But there are no specific guidelines by the department. Hence, General Thimayya National Academy of Adventure (GETHNAA), under the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, was started and they have to bring guidelines for adventure tourism and sports," an official from the tourism department said.

GETHNAA was established by the Government of Karnataka in 1989 as an autonomous body for the promotion of adventure in the State. The Academy was named after the late General K.S. Thimayya.

An official from GETHNAA said that the academy will give technical guidance to organisations and individuals associated with adventure activities and the academy is working on separate guidelines for adventure tourism. "We are in the process of setting up new guidelines for adventure sports and related tourism in the state and also for recognition of adventure tourism operators," an official from Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports said.

The Hindu Young World Quiz on Feb. 14 in Bengaluru

Sudhindr A.B.
BENGALURU

Young minds of Karnataka once again will get an opportunity to engage in a battle of wits as the 21st edition of The Hindu Young World Quiz will be held in Bengaluru on February 14, Mangaluru on February 16, and Hubballi on February 17. The event, presented by the State Bank of India, is open for school students in two categories; junior (Classes IV to VI) and senior (Classes VII to IX).

Schools may visit www.thehindu.com/yw-quiz for details and registration. Each team must consist of two members for each category.

Any team can take part by paying a non-refundable registration fee of ₹200. The team members must be from the same school/ branch. No cross-teams are allowed for registration.

IDs to be present

Teams in uniforms with IDs issued by the schools are directed to be present at the venue one hour before the start of the event. There will be preliminary written rounds, and six teams will qualify (based on the marks obtained in preliminaries) for the on-stage final rounds. UNIBIC is the snack partner. Naturo is the nutrition partner, and Rasna, the beverage partner of the event.

Bengaluru: The event will be held on February 14 at Chowdiah Memorial Hall in Gayathri Devi Park Extension, 2nd Main Road, 16th Cross, Malleswaram, Bengaluru - 560 003. For details, schools may contact R.N.B. Desai on 99861 96254.

Mangaluru: The event will be held on February 16 at Sri Mizar Govinda Pai Memorial Hall, Canara High School, Urva, Mannagudda, Mangaluru - 575 003. For details, schools may contact M.J. Mathew on 99807 71213.

Hubballi: The event will be held on February 17 at Deshpande Foundation Auditorium, Vidya Nagar, Hubballi -580 031.

For details, contact Appanna Metri on 94492 81773.

Government cannot act as a 'robber' of citizens' lands: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The government cannot act as a "robber" of citizens' lands, the High Court has said, while expressing anguish over non-payment of compensation to land owners even 15 years after acquisition of lands for industrial purpose way back in 2007 and realising crores of rupees from allotment of acquired lands.

"The conduct of Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) and its officials falls militantly short of the fairness standards expected of them... such a conduct reinforces the shackles of a feudalistic attitude from which the transformative character of our Constitution seeks to liberate," the Court observed.

Justice Krishna S. Dixit made the observations while partly allowing the petition filed by M V Guruprasad and Nandini M. Guruprasad, residents of J.P. Nagar in Bengaluru.

The petitioners had purchased nearly six acres of land at Jonnahalli in Devanahalli taluk in Bengaluru rural district during December 2006 and January 2007. The KIADB had acquired these lands in May 2007.

Herculean task

After much effort, the petitioners were able to get their names notified in 2014 by way of a corrigendum to acquisition notification, as earlier the KIADB had notified vendors' names even after the petitioners had informed the KIADB about their ownership, it noticed.

Even though the petitioners filed the petition in 2016, questioning both the acquisition and non payment of compensation, KIADB filed its statement only in 2021, casually intimating the HC that there was delay in payment of compensation and it would be made shortly. The KIADB had also pointed out that acquired lands were converted into industrial plots and allotted in 2019.

Noticing that the KIADB had received a total of ₹7.5 crores from the allottees of industrial plots by allotting the plots even at 50% discount from the market value, the Court said, "There is no plausible explanation as to why the payment of compensation is withheld for decade and a half."

Pay as per new law

As the KIADB had failed to pay the compensation for 15 years, the Court said the compensation will now have to be paid as per the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, along with solatium, interest and such other benefits.

However, as payment of compensation under 2013 Act for acquisitions made prior to 2013 is pending adjudication before a division bench in a different litigation, the Court directed the KIADB, for now, to determine/re-fix the compensation at the rate of 50% to be computed under the 2013 Act and make payments within eight weeks.

The petitioners will have to be paid compensation solely on the basis of 2013 Act minus what would be payable for now if the division bench approves pay compensation as per 2013 Act, the Court said. The KIADB will also have to pay a whopping 12% per annum interest on the total compensation amount.

Graduation Day held

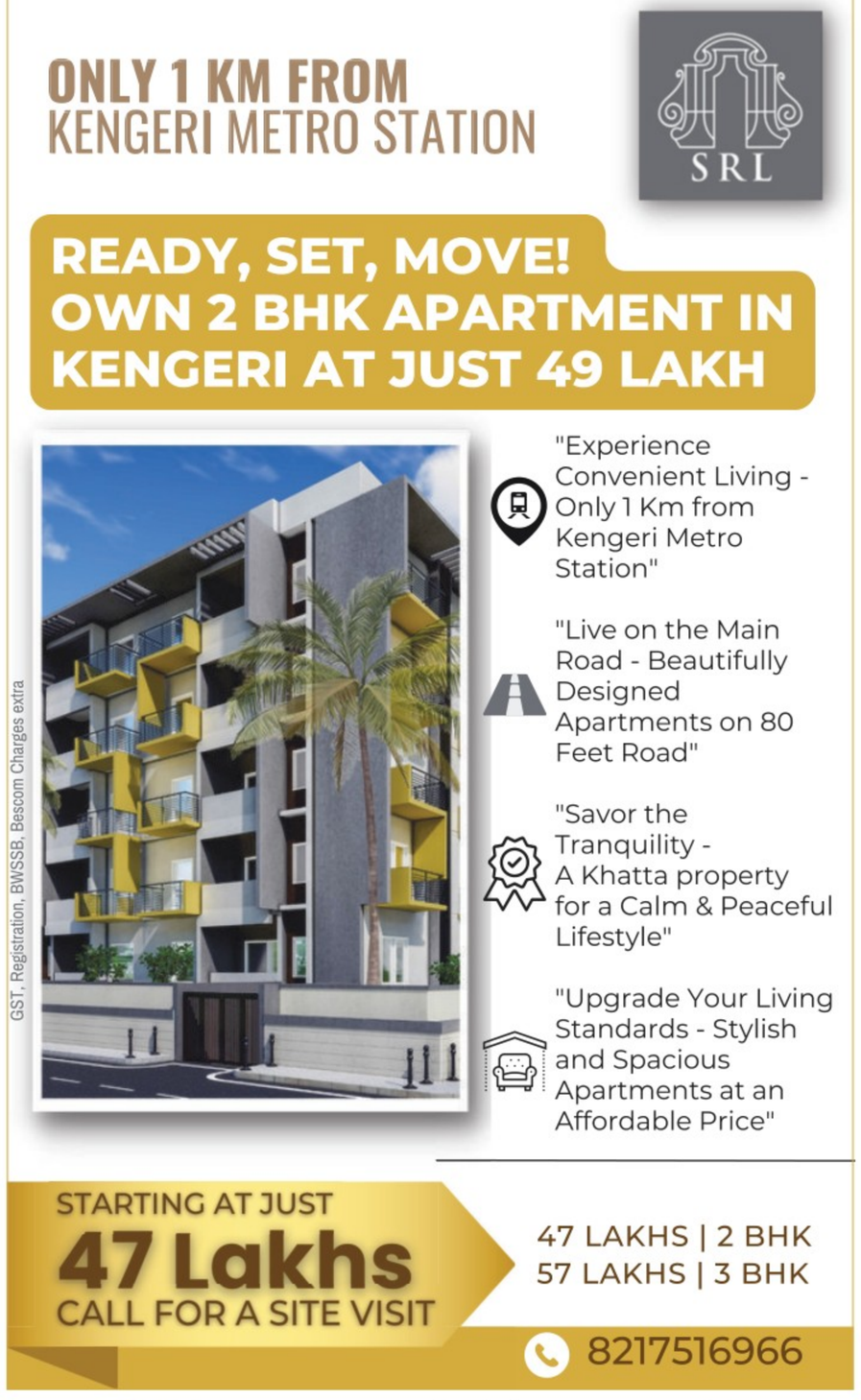
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Vokkaligara Sangha Dental College and Hospital on Friday celebrated the graduation day of the 2017 batch of students.

Nirmalanandanaatha Swamiji of Adichunchunagiri Mutt was the chief guest.

In his address, the Swamiji called upon the students to develop social responsibility and work for the upliftment of the needy and urged them to develop the cultural and spiritual ethos among them.

Dr. Rajkumar G.C., Principal of the college distributed award to meritorious students, said the college stated in a release.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Shah asks people not to vote for parties that eulogise Tipu

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Taking on the Congress and the Janata Dal (Secular) ahead of the Assembly elections in Karnataka, Union Minister for Home and Cooperation Amit Shah said on Saturday that both were "two faces of the same coin", and choosing Janata Dal (S) meant voting for the Congress.

He asked the people in Puttur: "Do you want the Congress and the Janata Dal (S) who valorise Tipu Sultan or the BJP which valorises Rani Abbakka?"

Rani Abbakka was the queen of the then Ullal region, near Mangaluru, and fought against foreign invaders, including the Portugese in the 16th century. The 18th century Mysore ruler Tipu Sultan, who fought the British, has been the target of BJP's consistent attack. The ruler's birth anniversary was officially celebrated during the Congress regime, which was reversed by the BJP when it came to power.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah speaking at the golden jubilee celebration function of CAMPCO at Puttur.
H.S. MANJUNATH

> Do you want the Congress and the Janata Dal (S) who valorise Tipu Sultan or the BJP which valorises Rani Abbakka?
>
> **AMIT SHAH,**
> Union Home Minister

For 'Nav Karnataka'

Addressing a gathering at Puttur at the golden jubilee celebrations of the Central Arecanut and Cocoa Marketing and Processing Cooperative Ltd. (CAMPCO), a multi-State cooperative society of Karnataka and Kerala, Mr. Shah said that voting the BJP meant "voting for Nav Karnataka."

He claimed that only the BJP could give a secure and stable government in Karnataka.

"Will you strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai by electing the BJP with full majority?" he asked the crowd. Continuing with rhetorical questions, Mr. Shah further asked: "Do you need a party of nationalists, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, or the corrupt Congress which wants to use Karnataka as the ATM for Gandhi parivar? Whose government do you want?"

Mr. Shah said that when the Congress was in power in Karnataka it had released many activists of the then Popular Front of India (PFI). But the Narendra Modi-led government banned the PFI. The Congress, which was into appeasement and strengthened an anti-national organisation (referring to the PFI), would never do good for Karnataka, he said.

Lauding CAMPCO for its achievements, he said that the cooperative celebrating the golden jubilee indicated that it had grown on the right path. He said that arecanut trade bridged the people of Gujarat with the people of Dakshina Kannada who cultivated it and the Gujarat people who consumed it.

Earlier, he digitally laid the foundation stone for building an agriculture mall of the CAMPCO in Puttur. He released the coconut oil product named 'Calpa' of the CAMPCO and inaugurated the new warehouse of the cooperative constructed at Bhadravat,i near Shivamogga, on the occasion.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa spoke. Nalin Kumar Kateel, MP for Dakshina Kannada and State BJP president, was present.

Farmers protest against objections to Upper Bhadra project by A.P.

The Hindu Bureau
HASSAN

Farmers of Chitradurga district have protested against the objections raised to the Upper Bhadra project by different forums in Andhra Pradesh following the Central government's allocation of funds for the project. Chitradurga Zilla Neeravari Anushtana Horata Samiti has termed the objections to the project uncalled for. In a press release, Samiti president T.Nulenur Shankarappa and working president B.A. Lingareddy said the project was being implemented to irrigate 2.25 lakh ha by micro-irrigation in drought-prone areas of Chikkamagaluru, Chitradurga and Tumakuru districts. As many as 367 tanks would be filled up to recharge the groundwater.

"The project was launched in 2007-08, after a detailed analysis of 45 years of water flow. The Central Water Commission has given approval for the project. The Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Jal Shakti accepted the techno-economic viability of the project in its 147th meeting held on December 23, 2020," the release said.

Further, the Investment Clearance Committee gave its consent for the project, with a total investment of ₹ 16,125 crore. "The High Power Steering Committee, in its meeting on February 15, 2022, recommended granting national project status to Upper Bhadra. The Central Water Commission has examined the project in detail. There would be no shortage of water for the riparian States, given the share allocated," the committee said.

The farmers also staged a protest in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office in Chitradurga on February 8. The protesters condemned the statements given by various forums in Andhra Pradesh objecting to the national status to the project. They maintained that the project was meant for drought-prone areas.

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
INVITATION OF BIDS–TWO COVER–ITEMWAR TENDER SYSTEM
(E-Submission) Second Call-Short Term

IFB No.	55/F.NMVS- CWSS to 252 /JJM/ SDO/CE-TNJ/2022/Dated.10.02.2023.
Fund	JJM Fund - 2022-2023
Eligibility	Registered Class I Contractors (Civil)
Tender Invitee	The Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Integrated Office Complex, First Floor, No.243/2, Thanjavur-Trichy Main Road, Pillayarpatty, Thanjavur- 613 403
Sale of Bid	**15.02.2023 to 02.03.2023 upto 15.00 hours (as per server time)**
EMD Payable	1.Online Mode through E-Tendering website **www.tntenders.gov.in** (OR) 2. Offline Mode Payable at Executive Engineer, RWS Division, Thanjavur
Available website	E-Tendering website **www.tntenders.gov.in.**
Pre Bid meeting	**22.02.2023** at **11.00** hours at the office of the Tender Invitee
Bid Submission	**02.03.2023** upto **15.00** hours Digitally signed encrypted Tenders through E-Tendering portal **www.tntenders.gov.in**
Bid opening	**03.03.2023** at **15.30** hours at the office of the Tender Invitee through E-Tender Portal

IFB No.	Name of work	Approximate value of work (Rs. in Crore including 18% GST)	Bid Security (Rs.in lakhs)
55	New Multi Village Scheme – CWSS to 252 habitations in Ammapettai union(168) and Papanasam union(84) in Thanajvur district (period of completion 18 months: Trial run: 6 Months & Paid Maintenance: 60 Months)	204.00	102.00

DIPR/ 915 /TENDER/2023 SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER, EVERY DROP COUNTS
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Chief Engineer (i/c), TWAD Board, Thanjavur.

Govt of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION KALABURAGI
No: EE/PWD/DIV/KLB/TS-6/Tender Notification/2022-23/ 8810 Dated: 06.02.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

1) Name of Work: Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi Invites tender (KW-3 & 4) for 3054 of 5 works of Indent No: 164484, 164483, 164482, 164857, 164866 tenders is called through e-procurement for the year 2022-23, 2) Estimated Cost: **Minimum Rs. 100.00 Lakhs Maximum Rs. 300.00 Lakhs,** 3) Amount Put to Tender: **Minimum Rs. 84.66 Lakhs Maximum Rs. 254.18 Lakhs,** 4) Eligibility of Contractor: "PWD, Registered Contractors:"Class-I Qualified to tender for works upto any amount,"Class-II Qualified to tender for works upto Rs. 5.00 Crores,"Class-III Qualified to tender for works upto Rs. 2.00 Crores", 5) Tender fees and EMD details: Application Fees as per e-procurement EMD Minimum Rs. 1,70,000.00 Maximum Rs. 3,81,000.00, 6) Pre- Bid Meeting: **17/02/2023 upto 11.00 Hrs,** 7) Last date for queries: **20/02/2023 upto 17.30 Hrs,** 8) Last date for submission of tender: **21/02/2023 upto 16.00 Hrs.,** 9) Date of opening of Technical Bid: **22/02/2023 at 16:30 Hrs.,** 10) Date of opening of Financial Bid:**23/02/2023 at 16.30 Hrs,** 11) Enquiries:Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi, 12) website : **www.e-proc.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/Kalaburagi/1283/MC&A/2022-23
Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Division Kalaburagi

Govt. of Karnataka
Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Gadag District, Gadag
Telephone No : 08372-231877, Email : dudc_gdg@yahoo.co.in
No: DUDC/DVP/Amuruth Nagarothana Municipality/PH-4/CR-25/2021-22 Dated : 08-02-2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION(CALL-3)

The Executive Engineer, District Urban Development Cell Gadag District, Gadag invites tenders in two cover system using KW-4 document from related Class Contractors for Gadag District Amuruth Nagarothana Municipality Phase-4 Project works as detailed below.

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Description of work	Amount Put to Tender	EMD
1	Road & drain Improvement Works in City Municipal Council Gadag-Betageri limits of Gadag Dist. Under Amruth Mukhya mantri Nagrothan Municipality Phase-4 Project.E-Proc Indent No. DMA/ 2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT139734/CALL-3	**1826.41**	**15.41**

Contractors can download and submit the tenders through e-Procurement portal at **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Calendar of Events and other information are as follows:
1. Last Date for uploading of completed tender documents: **22-02-2023** upto 16.00 hrs.
2. Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **23-02-2023** at 16.30 hrs.

Postponement of calendar of events and corrigendum / addendum (if any) is only published through e-Procurement portal and will not be published in newspapers.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/Gadag/KSMCA/639/2022-23 **District Urban Development Cell, Gadag District,Gadag**

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DISTRICT URBAN DEVELPOMENT CELL, D.C. OFFICE UTTARA KANNADA DISTRICT, KARWAR-581 301
Telephone & Fax: 08382 221170 Email: itstaffdudckarwar@gmail.com
No: UK/DUDC/ANP-4/CR-07 /2022-23 **Dated: 10-02-2023**

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, District Urban Development Cell, Uttar Kannada District, Karwar invites e-tenders from Class-1 PWD Registered contractors for Amruth Nagarothan-4 Project work as per KTPP Act 1999 Rule 2000 as detailed below .

Uploading Tender Documents: **10-02-2023 at 16.30 hrs,** Pre bid Meeting date: **17-02-2023 at 11.30 hrs** Last date for submission of tender: **21-02-2023 at 17.00 hrs,** Opening of Technical Bid: **22-02-2023 at 17.30 hrs** & Opening of Financial Bid: **27-02-2023 at 11.00 hrs.**

Sl. No	Description of work	Amount put to tender (Rs. In Lakhs)	EMD Amount (Rs in Lakhs)	Tender Period
	(Two Cover system)			
1	Improvements to Roads and Drains under Amruth Nagarothana Phase -4 in **Yellapur Town Panchayat. Indent No. DMA/2022-23/ RD/ WORK_INDENT146795**	**84.65**	**1.69**	3 Months (Including Monsoon Season)
2	Improvements to Roads and Drains under Amruth Nagarothana Phase-4 in **Mundgod Town Panchayat. Indent No. DMA/2022-23/RD/ WORK_ INDENT146798**	**50.20**	**1.10**	3 Months (Including Monsoon Season)
	(Single Cover system)			
1	Improvements to Roads and Drains under Amruth Nagarothana Phase-4 in **Kumta Town Municipal Council. Indent No. DMA/2022-23/ RD/ WORK_ INDENT146278**	**42.17**	**0.85**	3 Months (Including Monsoon Season)

All other required tender information may be availed from the website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or Project Director, DUDC, UK Office .

DIPR/ADK/MCA/959/22-23 dt. 10.02.2023
Sd/-, Executive Engineer, District Urban Development Cell
DC Office, U.K. District, Karwar

TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
Chennai - 32

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Sub : To conduct "Pollution Load Carrying capacity study in Manali Industrial Area, Chennai"

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board proposes to engage NABL /E (P) Act accredited environmental & technical organisations/ reputed technical institutions having valid certification and technical capacities to conduct **"Carrying Capacity study in Manali Industrial area, Chennai for Air, Water, Land and Noise environment".**

The Terms of Reference for the study can be downloaded from TNPCB web site **https://tnpcb.gov.in** under the notification "EoI for Carrying Capacity study in Manali Industrial area,Chennai for Air, Water, Land and Noise environment". The interested agencies may submit their EoI along with time duration & cost estimation and a brief project report in a sealed cover to the undersigned on or before 28.02.2023, 5.00 p.m.

MEMBER SECRETARY
TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
GUINDY, CHENNAI - 32. E-mail:memsec@tnpcb.gov.in

DIPR / 135 / Tender / 2023 சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
Estate Office, GKVK Campus, Bangalore-560065.
NO: EO/TN/491/2022-23 **Date: 18-1-2023**

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore has invited Tender in the prescribed form as per Standard Tender Document KW4 from the registered KPWD/PWD/Contractors for the works Sl. No.1 and 2. The details of the notification, tender document, specifications are available in the website: **https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** The cost of tender document is as per e-procurement portal. The EMD has to be paid in the e-procurement portal using e-Procurement payment modes.

The above works are under Two Cover system. The details for two cover system are to be uploaded as per Standard Tender Document.

The Pre-bid meeting will be held on **6.3.2023 at 10.30 A.M**. The Blank Tender Documents can be down loaded from **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** Last date and time for uploading is **15.3.2023 upto 4.00 P.M.** The **Technical Bid** will be opened on **18.3.2023 at 10.30 A.M.** The **Financial Bid** will be opened on **24.3.2023 at 10.30 A.M.**

For more details please contact e-portal help desk at **support@eprochelpdesk.com** or **8046010000 / 8068948777** on working days and this office during working hour, Phone No. 080-23332765.

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Estate Officer

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Interview Date: 13th February 2023 (Monday) Timing: 10am to 5pm
Venue: M/s. Sudhan Power Tech. Block Bg1 Shelters Kamalam, (Behind Lr-Royal Meridian Hotel) No. 5, Madhava Perumal East Street, Alandur, Chennai - 600016
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INBRIEF

KRRS youth wing to be launched tomorrow

To mark the 87th birth anniversary of iconic farmers' leader M.D. Nanjundaswamy on Monday, Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS), the farmers' organisation he co-founded, will launch its youth wing in Chamarajanagar.

In a press release, KRRS leader Badagalapura Nagendra said the organisation had the long-term vision of including more women, students, and youth in the organisation and increase membership by around 10,000. As part of the initiative, the youth wing of the KRRS was being launched on Nanjundaswamy's birth anniversary, he said.

Wipro gives away Earthian awards

Wipro Ltd. organised the 12th Wipro Earthian Awards, an annual event to recognise excellence in sustainability education in schools and colleges across India, for the year 2022 in Bengaluru on Saturday.

This edition of the Wipro Earthian received over 1,200 project entries from schools, out of which 20 winning and 20 shortlisted entries were selected by an independent jury. Various school teams demonstrated their understanding of biodiversity, waste, and water through a combination of activity-based learning programmes and essays. Rishad Premji, executive chairman, Wipro Ltd., and Anurag Behar, CEO, Azim Premji Foundation, felicitated the winning teams with certificates and cash prizes.

REVA varsity hosts 'Khel Khoj' to revive indigenous games

The REVA University on Saturday hosted 'Khel Khoj', an event to revive and rejuvenate the traditional and indigenous games of the bygone era. The event was held on the university campus in which a large number of schoolchildren and teenagers participated.

Mullai Muhilan M.P. Commissioner, Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, inaugurated the event. Mr. Muhilan said it was a commendable effort to form a common platform to create awareness on such games. Speaking about Khel Khoj, P. Shyama Raju, Chancellor of REVA University, said "Our culture is so rich in tradition and some of the games such as kho-kho and kabaddi have come back to modern life. But children have forgotten some traditional games such as *pagade*. At REVA, we wanted to bring back this childhood to our students."

Resurgent economy set to help Bommai present 'please-all' Budget in poll year

State collected a record ₹6,085 crore as GST in January; CM has said Budget will focus on farmers, working class, poor, and women

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

With less than 100 days to go for the Assembly elections, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai is all set to present a Budget on February 17 with an eye to please as many sections as possible.

As the new government to be in place in May is likely to present a new Budget, the Budget speech next week will be more of a poll pitch for the ruling party and an exercise in "articulating the legacy" of Mr. Bommai, sources in the government said. The Chief Minister has so far described the upcoming Budget as a "Budget for the voiceless", with a focus on "farmers, working class, poor, and women", setting its political tone.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai will likely present a revenue surplus Budget after two years of revenue deficit Budgets, according to sources. FILE PHOTO

With the State economy out of the pandemic shadow, the Budget outlay will likely cross the ₹3 lakh crore benchmark for the first time and Mr. Bommai will likely present a revenue surplus Budget after two years of revenue deficit Budgets, top sources in the government said.

On Saturday, Mr. Bommai tweeted that the State collected a record ₹6,085 crore as GST in January 2023, and Karnataka continues to be the State with the highest growth rate of 30% in the GST collection. Terming the revenue generation in 2022-23 as a "remarkable mop up", he said, "This augmentation to revenue will allow the government to present a better Budget this year."

This resurgence in economy will come in handy for the Chief Minister to allocate a significant portion of funds for welfare schemes, sources in the CMO said.

The big ticket announcement will be the Stree Samarthya scheme, where direct monetary assistance has been promised to women to run their houses independently. The scheme was announced in January, apparently to pre-empt Congress' announcement that it will implement the Gruha Lakshmi scheme giving a monthly allowance of ₹2,000 to women, if voted to power.

While Mr. Bommai has championed pro-farmer schemes such as Raita Vidya Nidhi and Raita Shakti, as part of his legacy, he is likely to introduce more such welfare schemes for the battered farm sector. The Budget will also likely include several proposals pandering to electorally key communities, including allocations to mutts of different castes and institutions, sources said.

Big ticket infrastructure

Mr. Bommai has already announced that the Budget would propose substantial allocation for the irrigation sector to aid agriculture. Significant allocations are expected for Upper Krishna, Mekedatu, and Mahadayi projects apart from a slew of lift irrigation projects, sources said.

The Chief Minister, who also holds the charge of Bengaluru, has announced an allocation of ₹7,000 crore for the city, which will likely include investments for storm-water drain work to prevent flooding, suburban rail, and Peripheral Ring Road, sources said.

North Karnataka is also hopeful that the Chief Minister, who is from the region, will make significant investments there. Mr. Bommai is expected to shower some "gifts" for his home district Haveri and constituency Shiggaon, sources said.

EC officials visit State to study low turnout in previous polls

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Team led by EC Deputy Chief Commissioner Ajay Badu visited Yadgir and conducted preliminary inspection of EVMs and VVPATs

Three teams of the Election Commission of India (EC) visited five districts of Karnataka and held meetings with the local officials from February 7 to review preparations for the Assembly elections.

EC teams sought to identify the polling stations where the voter turnout was lowest in the last Assembly and Lok Sabha elections, find out the reasons and come up with solutions to increase the turnout through voter awareness.

A team led by EC Deputy Chief Commissioner Ajay Badu visited Yadgir district and conducted preliminary level inspection of EVMs and VVPATs. He held a meeting with the district officials of Kalaburagi zone regarding election preparations. Chief Electoral Officer for Karnataka Manoj Kumar Meena and Deputy Chief Electoral Officer Rajendra Cholan participated along with this team.

A second team led by EC Director Shubhra Saxena and Secretary B.C. Patra visited Chamarajanagar district and held a meeting with the district officials of Mysuru zone.

The third team led by EC SVEEP Director Santosh Ajmera held a meeting with district officials and SVEEP nodal officials regarding the preparation of State SVEEP programmes for voter awareness. State SVEEP nodal officer P.S. Vastrad was present on this occasion. The teams also held a videoconference with the Bengaluru zonal and district nodal officers.

The senior officers of these teams arrived in Bengaluru on Thursday, led by the State Chief Electoral Officer, and held a meeting with the district officials of the Belagavi zone through videoconference. They also had a meeting with Bengaluru zone officials on the same day.

With multiple claimants, Cong. faces tough task in candidate selection

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

As the Congress kick starts the second phase of candidate selection, with the arrival of screening committee chairman Mohan Prakash on Sunday, the party is facing multiple challenges in the selection process. With intense competition for the ticket in a large number of constituencies, the party is likely to delay announcing names where it is expecting rebellion from the party rank and file.

Winnability

While winnability is being seen as the most important factor in candidate selection, the party is also facing the challenge of balancing social justice in ticket distribution. Mr. Prakash, whose appointment as the chairman was cleared by AICC president M. Mallikarjun Kharge last week, is expected to meet the local leadership for feedback on Sunday and Monday.

"The committee will take three or four names per constituency to the AICC for final selection. Results of the third-party survey, party and local leadership feedback will also be considered," a senior Congress leader told *The Hindu*. In November, the Congress received about 1,400 applications for 224 Assembly constituencies with some constituencies receiving over a dozen applications. These include many new aspirants for the ticket where the party has an incumbent legislator. Some senior leaders have also been accused of propping up new candidates against established local leadership.

A file photo of KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar with Assembly election ticket aspirants.

A source said that in about 40 constituencies, senior leaders, including Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah, Mr. Kharge, and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar, are pushing their candidatures, intensifying competition. While there is also talk of some senior leaders, including K.H. Muniyappa, M.B. Patil, and G. Parameshwara, being unhappy, a senior leader described it as a "bargaining effort" on their part.

Acknowledging that there is intense competition, Mr. Shivakumar said efforts were being made in several constituencies to bring an amicable solution among rival candidates to ensure win for the party.

In more than a dozen constituencies where Congress legislators deserted the party to join the BJP in 'Operation Lotus', the party structure has been dismantled, and the party is struggling to fix it. Efforts to get some of them back to the party have been thwarted by the BJP, party sources said. "In many constituencies, the Congress has a good base but may find it hard to convert it to victory as there has been no continuity of candidates. This time around, many such candidates who did fairly well are reluctant to contest," another senior leader pointed out.

The Congress announcing candidates for some constituencies hinges on the BJP move, and the party is awaiting if the saffron party would implement 'Gujarat model' of denying the ticket to its incumbent legislators to beat the anti-incumbency factor.

Youth and women

Though the party is under pressure to distribute the ticket to more youth and women, the senior leader said the acceptance level among the cadre is not encouraging. "Distribution of the ticket to minorities has also become a tricky issue as the community has been demanding one ticket at least for every district without consideration to winnability factor." Another leader said, "People expect social justice, and it can be delivered only if you survive. Social justice does not imply only in the distribution of ticket, but in welfare measures once elected."

Many IAS officers transferred

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government on Saturday issued a notification transferring 10 IAS officers, giving postings to four IAS officers who were waiting to be posted and giving concurrent charges to two IAS officers.

According to a notification, names of the officers and their new postings are as follows: Ramana Reddy E.V. - Additional Chief Secretary to Government-cum-Development Commissioner; Kapil Mohan - Additional Chief Secretary, Energy Department, with concurrent charge of the post of Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Tourism; Kumar Naik G. - Commissioner, Bangalore Development Authority; Umashankar S.R. - Additional Chief Secretary, Cooperation Department, with concurrent charge of the post of Additional Chief Secretary, Education Department (Higher Education); Rashmi V. Mahesh, - Principal Secretary, Revenue Department (Disaster Management, Bhoomi and UPOR); Selvakumar S. - Principal Secretary, Commerce and Industries Department, with concurrent charge of the post of Principal Secretary, Department of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood; Shiva Shankar - Managing Director, Rajiv Gandhi Rural Housing Corporation Ltd., Bengaluru; Mohammd Roshan - Managing Director, Hescom, Hubbali; Bhanwar Singh Meena - General Manager, Resettlement and Rehabilitation and Land Acquisition, Upper Krishna Project, Bagalkot district; Prakash G.T. Nittali - Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, Chickballapur; and Ravi M. Tirlapur - Deputy Secretary, Zilla Panchayat, Bengaluru Rural, with concurrent charge of the post of Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, Bengaluru Rural.

According to the notification, the following IAS Officers who were waiting to be posted have been given postings: Manoj Jain - Secretary, Minority Welfare Department, Bengaluru; Nalini Atul - Director, Social Audit, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department; Bhoyar Harshal Narayanrao - Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, Belagavi; and Nongjai Mohd. Ali Akram Shah - Additional Mission Director-2, Sakala Mission, Bengaluru.

Demand for independent religion status for Lingayatism crops up again

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Amid a clamour for enhanced reservation by various communities, the old demand for according an independent religion status for Lingayat faith has cropped up again, with various Lingayat organisations deciding to stage a symbolic one-day sit-in at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on February 20.

Addressing pressperson along with office-bearers of the Rashtriya Basava Dala, honorary president of the Akhila Bharata Lingayata Samanvaya Samiti Channabasavanand Swami said representatives and members of 48 organisations would be participating in the one-day token agitation.

Akhila Bharata Lingayata Samanvaya Samiti honorary president Channabasavanand Swami announcing a protest in Bengaluru on February 20, at a press meet in Hubballi on Saturday. KIRAN BAKALE

"The previous Congress government led by Siddaramaiah had sent a recommendation to the BJP-led Union government on according an independent religion status to Lingayatism. However, it was sent back by the Union government. Now that the BJP is in power in both State and Centre, we want Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai to send the recommendation again to the Centre and get it approved," he said.

The seer said that although Lingayat conventions were being held at regular intervals, the demise of some prominent Lingayat seers, including Mathe Mahadevi, had slowed down the pace of the movement. "Recently, a mega Lingayat convention was held in Mumbai and the one-day protest in Bengaluru will be a wake-up call to the ruling disposition," he said.

The seer said that they would be giving an open invitation to all religious heads, followers of Basavanna and various organisations, including Jagatika Lingayat Mahasabha, to participate in the agitation to take forward the issue. "It will be a non-political agitation, but we will seek support from all political parties," he said. On the next step, he said Lingayat organisations would vote for the political party that comes forward to support the demand. "Be it the BJP, Congress, JD(S), AAP, SDPI, AIMIM or any party, if their leaders express support for our cause, we will vote for them," he said.

Dak Adalat on March 20

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The office of the Postmaster General, South Karnataka Region, Bengaluru, will hold a Dak Adalat on March 20 at 11 a.m. at the Conference Room of O/o the Postmaster General, South Karnataka Region, Bengaluru.

The Department of Posts said in a release that those who would like to present their grievances on postal matters may e-mail them to ir.karsk@indiapost.gov.in by February 15.

Training programme

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Department of Sericulture, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru, is organising a training programme and exhibition on value-added products of sericulture on February 17. Call 9743533047 or mail to hoddos2018@gmail.com for registration.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE
DEATH

OBITUARY
V.R. JAYARAM
(26.01.1950 - 04.02.2023)
10th Day Ceremony on 13th Feb 2023 at Palakkad, Kerala.

' Will remember you forever. Memories will never be forgotten'.
Sorrowfully mourned by :
Wife - Jayanthi Jayaraman
Brothers, sisters in law, Sister & Brother in law and all the Children.

Peek into the past of Agasthyarkoodam's lost observatory

Sarath Babu George
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Agasthyarkoodam, the misty peak and trekkers' destination on the Western Ghats straddling Tamil Nadu and Kerala, was once home to a forgotten and long-lost 19th century observatory established by Scottish meteorologist John Allan Broun.

Broun, who used the facility for recording magnetic and meteorological observations in tandem with the Thiruvananthapuram astronomical observatory, was feted by the Royal Society of London for his path-breaking work.

R. Jayakrishnan, Associate Professor of physics at the University of Kerala and the present honorary director of the Thiruvananthapuram observatory, has stumbled upon historical evidence about the Agasthyar observatory from archival records and sketches of the era.

Tracing the origins of the structure perched atop the verdant peak in the annals of history, the researcher pieced together historical evidence to shed light on one of nearly a dozen such observatories that then recorded magnetic observations in the world. His findings have been published in Springer's *Indian Journal of History of Science*, peer-reviewed by the Indian National Science Academy.

Broun's tryst with astronomical observations in India began after he was invited by the ruler of the erstwhile Travancore Uthram Tirunal Marthanda Varma to helm the Thiruvananthapuram (then Trevandrum) observatory following the death of its first director John Caldecott in 1849.

A sketch supposedly of Agasthyar Observatory from Broun's memoir *Report on the Observatories of His Highness the Rajah of Travancore and on the Agasthyar Peaks of the Western Ghats.*

Broun, who was the director of another observatory in Scotland, saw this as an opportunity to expand the network of magnetic observatories developed by the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

The meteorologist, who reached Thiruvananthapuram along with his wife and four children on January 11, 1852 took charge of the Trivandrum observatory and set about the task of finding an apt location for another since the research on terrestrial magnetism required simultaneous measurements from two different locations.

Broun, who led arduous treks through treacherous paths to the Western Ghats, zeroed down on the Agasthyar mountain at a height of 6,200 ft above sea level for his second observatory. His team began to record observations from the observatory in July 1855, two years after they commenced the painstaking labour that involved several hundreds of workers.

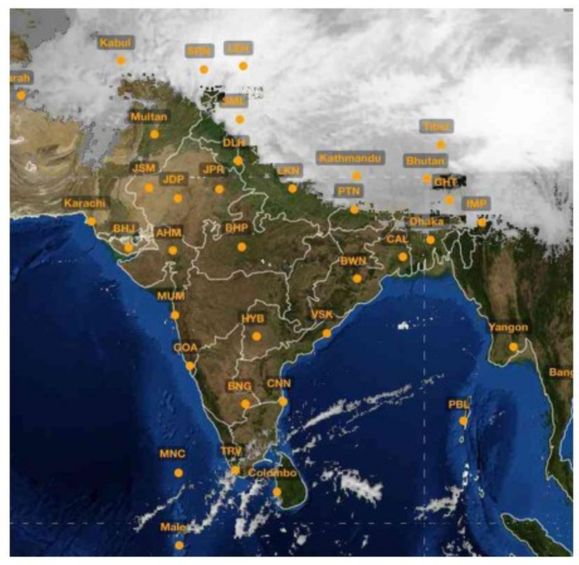
A fever caused by inclement weather impaired Broun's hearing in one ear, prompting him to relocate to Europe in 1859. The observatory remained dormant until his return in 1862. However, difficulty in meeting expenses and other hardships forced its operations to come to a halt in 1865. It was closed in 1881 by the then Madras Governor Sir William Denison shortly after the Madras Observatory wound up its magnetic studies.

Broun spent the rest of his life compiling the data collected from the twin observatories of Travancore. He was awarded the Keith Medal from the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the Royal Medal from the Royal Society of London.

Dr. Jayakrishnan says the aftermath of the observatory after its closure has not been documented. The remnants of the structure were also never found.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh and east Assam. Strong wind (speed reaching 40-50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph) likely along & off Gujarat coast and adjoining northeast Arabian Sea

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	29.8	13.6	Kozhikode	—	34.2	24.2
Ahmedabad	—	30.7	18.0	Kurnool	—	36.8	18.6
Aizawl	—	—	7.9	Lucknow	—	30.8	15.8
Allahabad	—	30.2	13.4	Madurai	—	33.8	19.3
Bengaluru	—	31.9	15.7	Mangaluru	—	34.0	23.0
Bhopal	—	—	13.2	Mumbai	—	34.4	18.0
Bhubaneswar	—	37.4	17.8	Mysuru	—	32.0	—
Chandigarh	—	25.7	14.0	New Delhi	—	27.7	14.0
Chennai	—	32.0	21.1	Patna	—	30.5	12.6
Coimbatore	—	34.3	18.4	Port Blair	—	30.8	23.0
Dehradun	—	26.8	12.6	Puducherry	—	31.8	19.6
Gangtok	3	10.0	7.6	Pune	—	35.5	16.0
Goa	—	34.9	21.2	Raipur	—	35.0	17.0
Guwahati	—	26.6	15.0	Ranchi	—	31.7	13.0
Hubballi	—	35.0	18.0	Shillong	—	17.6	5.8
Hyderabad	—	35.4	16.8	Shimla	1	12.4	4.8
Imphal	—	23.9	8.5	Srinagar	2	6.8	0.5
Jaipur	—	28.6	16.5	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.5	21.7
Kochi	—	29.6	23.2	Tiruchi	—	32.2	21.0
Kohima	—	21.0	7.6	Vijayawada	—	33.8	21.6
Kolkata	—	33.0	18.1	Visakhapatnam	—	31.5	22.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.22	..11	.11	...139	...127	
Bengaluru	...8	100	.68	74	...117	
Chennai	.25	..44	.58	...178	...116	
Delhi	.21	106	.76	...302	...383	
Hyderabad	...6	..52	.39	...140	...150	
Kolkata	.27	..38	.40	...139	...141	
Lucknow	.19	..88	.70	...230	...170	
Mumbai	.62	255	133	...346	...175	
Pune	..—	..31	.63	...113	94	
Visakhapatnam	...9	..45	.37	...100	...136	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Begusarai, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 410 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 26

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

INBRIEF

Telangana Secretariat not to be inaugurated on Feb. 17

The Telangana government has postponed the inauguration of its new Secretariat building on February 17 in view of the model code in force for the election to the Legislative Council from Teachers' constituency representing Hyderabad-Rangareddy-Mahabubnagar districts and local bodies constituency of Hyderabad on March 13. The inauguration was to be followed by a public meeting to be addressed by leaders of several parties, including some Chief Ministers.

Archaeology Dept. to launch excavations at more historical sites in T.N. this year

They will be taken up at Pattaraiperumbudur, Porpanaikottai, Bhoothinatham and Kilnamandi

S.Ganesan
TIRUCHI

Spurred by the growing public interest in ancient history and archaeology, the Archaeology Department is all set to take up excavations at more sites of historical importance in the State this year.

In a significant move, the department would resume excavations at Pattaraiperumpudur in Tiruvallur district, where archaeological vestiges right from prehistoric to the early historic period were found a few years ago. "The Central Advisory Board for Archaeology (CABA) has granted permission for excavations at eight sites, including the Keezhadi cluster, Gangaikondacholapuram, Vembakottai and Thulukarpatti, where they are ongoing. We will be resuming excavations at Pattaraiperumpudur in Tiruvallur district and launching them at Porpanaikottai, Bhoothinatham and Kilnamandi this year," Thangam Thennarasu, Minister for Industries, Tamil Official Language, Tamil Culture and Archaeology, told *The Hindu* on Saturday.

The department had taken up excavation at Pattaraiperumpudur in 2016. "The excavation at the site gains importance as we have found vestiges right from the Palaeolithic period here. We want to ensure continuity and do not want to do it piece meal. We want to explore and examine the chain of history," said Mr. Thennarasu.

The Archaeology Department will launch excavation at Porpanaikotttai, believed to be a Sangam Age site.

Nine injured as hot slag falls on them at steel plant

The Hindu Bureau
VISAKHAPATNAM

Nine persons, four of them permanent employees and five contract workers, of the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd., the corporate entity of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, were injured when hot slag fell on them at Converter-E in SMS-2 section on Saturday.

The incident took place when the employees were engaged in clearing a track for the movement of the slag pot that was stuck. The hot slag from the pot splashed onto the nine persons after it came in contact with water, causing them burns.

Of the nine, three suffered severe burns.

Hyderabad on a high as racers set the E-Prix track on fire

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

The atmosphere was electric and there were smiles all around as the inaugural edition of the prestigious Hyderabad Formula E-racing witnessed a grand finale on Necklace Road, the venue of the ABB FIA Formula E World Championship here on Saturday.

Thousands of fans cheered on for two-time Formula E world champion Jean-Eric Vergne, who emerged winner in a thrilling contest.

Experts said the final laps saw Vergne come up with stunning 'defensive' racing to keep the challengers behind to clinch the honours.

No doubt, there was an unfortunate crash involving four cars in the 12th lap, but again that was one of those things which do happen in Formula races. The disappointment for some fans was understandable as the incident involved two TCS Jaguar drivers Sam Bird and favourite Mitch Evans, and pushed them out of contention.

Cricketers Deepak Chahar, Shikhar Dhawan and Sachin Tendulkar at the Formula E racing in Hyderabad on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Every time the cars zoomed past them at lightning speed, the fans were up on their feet, lustily cheering and whistling at the drivers who obviously were in their own competitive world.

Not surprisingly, celebrities including cricketing legend Sachin Tendulkar, and contemporary stars Shikhar Dhawan, Yuzvendra Chahal with wife Dhanashree Verma, and Deepak Chahar, along with film stars Nagarjuna, Naga Chaitanya, Akhil and Navdeep were there to lend glamour to the whole show. Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur and Telangana IT Minister K.T. Rama Rao graced the valedictory function.

KTR faults Centre for metro project delay

Swathi Vadlamudi
HYDERABAD

Minister for Municipal Administration & Urban Development K.T. Rama Rao trained his guns on the Centre yet again for ignoring the pleas of the State for financial assistance for the phase-II works of Hyderabad Metro Rail.

Answering a question on extension of Metro Rail project during Question Hour in the Budget session of the Telangana Legislative Assembly on Saturday, Mr.Rama Rao said the Central government was not responding to the State's request to support extension of metro rail on the BHEL-Lakdikapul and Nagole-L.B. Nagar stretches.

Man held for 'promoting enmity' with remarks against Ambedkar

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad city police on Friday arrested a man from Alwal police station limits for allegedly promoting enmity between groups on grounds of castes or community, causing disharmony, and for statements with potential for public mischief.

Police said Nagularapu Vara Prasad, popular by his social media name 'Hamara Prasad', was arrested "for abusing Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and forwarding videos through social media platforms."

Prasad's Twitter account, where he describes himself the founder and president of Rashtriya Dalita Sena, and protecting Hindu Dharma and the country as his motto, earlier tweeted about his arrest at around 3 p.m.

"Some persons claiming to be police personnel barged into my house at Alwal. They did not show any warrant to my family members, I do not know if they are police officials," it read.

According to the police, the set of statements that were purportedly abusive in nature of Dr. Ambedkar, and were being widely circulated on social media by Mr. Prasad, were in a YouTube video titled 'I would have been another Godse'.

The video link was published around Thursday noon by tagging prominent Dalit leaders, the Bahujan Samaj Party and others.

Horsely Hills tourism police outpost ready for launch

The Hindu Bureau
RAYACHOTI

The tourism police outpost atop Horsley Hills is set to be virtually inaugurated by Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy soon.

Superintendent of Police V. Harshavardhan Raju inspected the outpost on Saturday and said that they would work in coordination with the AP Tourism Development Corporation to bring back the police quarters and buildings built during the British Raj period to full use.

The SP said the outpost would be operational 24x7. "Top priority will be given to providing foolproof security to the tourists at the hill station," Mr. Raju said.

Forest Department may relocate people resettled in elephant corridors in Idukki

Sandeep Vellaram
IDUKKI

After a two-decade-long failed experiment that cost about 40 lives, the Forest Department has decided to relocate people resettled in the elephant corridors at Chinnakkanal and Santhanpara panchayats in Kerala's Idukki.

According to department sources, a long-term measure to address the human-elephant conflict in the region is to relocate people from 301 Colony, including tribal hamlets, and ensure smooth passage to wild elephants in and around the Anayirankal dam.

Deserted place: One of the abandoned houses in 301 Colony at Chinnakkanal after frequent raids by wild elephants.

High Range Circle Chief Conservator of Forests Arun R.S. says a proposal will be submitted soon.

"The plan is to relocate people from 301 Colony, including those having title deeds, and restore the corridors. The voluntary relocation project can only be implemented with the support of the people. We plan to discuss it with people. Once the project is implemented, other colonies will be separated by a solar fence," says Mr. Arun.

Elephant expert P.S. Essa says, "We can capture one or two elephants as an immediate solution. If one is captured, another will occupy the space. So the proposal is a healthy move to find a permanent solution to the issue".

The elephant-human conflict is a fallout of a decision to allow human settlements near the Anayirankal dam by the then United Democratic Front government headed by A.K. Antony in 2002-2003.

Of the 301 families that shifted to the area, only 40 are still there. Most of the tribal families have fled the area.

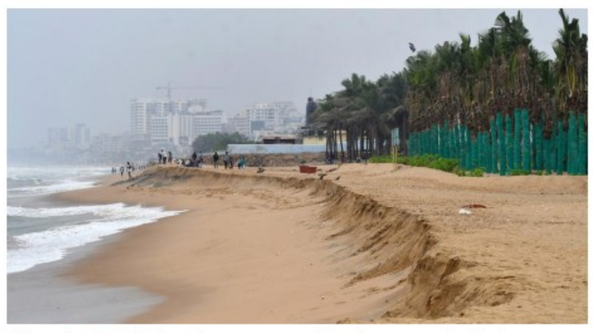
Beaches in Visakhapatnam are now heading towards a disaster, say experts

Sumit Bhattacharjee
VISAKHAPATNAM

Recently, Union Minister of State for Earth Sciences Jitendra Singh said in Rajya Sabha that about 28.81 km of coastline in Visakhapatnam is prone to erosion.

The erosion of beaches in Visakhapatnam is not new. It has been since 1930, ever since two ships were sunk near the Dolphin's Nose to create a breakwater to stop the process of sedimentation at the mouth of the Visakhapatnam harbour, during the construction phase of Viskhapatnam Port.

This was just the beginning. Erosion aggravated with the construction of two breakwaters during the construction of the Outer Harbour during the 1970s, said K.V.S.R. Prasad, former professor from the Department of Meteorology and Oceanography, Andhra University.



Slow death: The beaches act as cushion between the high wave action of the sea and the landmass, say experts. V. RAJU

Beaches are dynamic landforms and should be treated as part of the sea and not part of the land. The erosion and deposition of sand are primarily due to the high wave action and high wave energy and the problem arises when man meddle with them, he said.

As per the experts, the beaches act as cushion between the high wave action of the sea and the landmass. Continuous nourishment of beaches is a must through the natural process and, if disturbed, they will face severe erosion.

Due to the construction of the breakwaters on the south side, the sand no longer reaches the beaches in the north, such as RK Beach, and hence the beaches are not nourished.

As per the experts about 50 years from now, if adequate precautions are not taken, then "we may not have RK Beach and it could become like the Marine Drive of Mumbai".

From Page One

The cuts run deep

It is unlikely that the antagonist Jim's henchman being either ex-SBU or ex-KGB made any difference to filmgoers; the film has reportedly grossed over ₹887 crore since it was released on January 25.

The Central Board of Film Certification routinely orders changes to movies: a toning down or removal of sexual content, violence, and abusive language, especially if the filmmaker would like a more favourable age rating (a U or U/A, rather than an A or S). Of late though, a different kind of censorship has taken shape, regardless of what a film's classification is. These modifications go beyond the guidelines on the CBFC website. Instead, they span the government's concerns on diplomatic relations, police overreach, political balance, religion and caste.

The Hindi dub of the Tamil film *Mookuthi Amman* (2020), a fantasy-comedy, was ordered to remove a reference to the "Prime Minister", with a parenthetical simply saying that the use was a "wrong reference". The Telugu version of the Tamil comedy film *Gulu Gulu* (2022) was similarly ordered to remove a reference to "India Prime Minister", with no explanatory note. In *Pathaan*, references to the PM and the Prime Minister's Office were replaced 13 times with the more generic "Minister" or even with "the President".

In the yet-unreleased Hindi crime fiction film *Dil Hai Gray*, censors ordered the removal of the term "government" itself, along with a reference to "Motabhai", without explanation.

No legal justification cited

From the documents online, it is unclear what the context for a lot of these cuts are, or what part of the Cinematograph Rules, 1983 – which guide censorship decisions – were relied on for each cut. Individual examining committees list cuts very differently, and almost none that were obtained by *The Hindu* cited a legal justification for individual changes.

The Tamil film *Sathuranga Atam* was required to remove the word "beef", despite it being legal to consume the meat in many parts of India.

No tribunal to appeal cuts

Filmmaker Onir, whose 2010 film *I Am* won the National Award for Best Hindi Film, said that the CBFC's censorship has expanded in recent years. In the past, Mr. Onir recalled having recourse to the Film Certification Appellate Tribunal (FCAT) to appeal cuts to his films. "But now, there are no tribunals," he pointed out. The FCAT was abolished in 2021, a move that the Union government said was a part of overall reforms of tribunals in the country.

In the Awadhi film *Hari Shabnam*, censors cut a scene showing a police officer taking a bribe. The 2021 Kannada film *100* cut out "*naaye*" (dog) from all dialogues referring to police officers.

In 2017, a committee headed by veteran filmmaker Shyam Benegal said in a report that the CBFC should expand its age ratings and give up its censorship powers for films. The Union government did not accept this suggestion, and instead proposed a Cinematograph Amendment Bill in 2021 that would grant it powers to withdraw certification for films it had already cleared, a provision that had previously been struck down by the Supreme Court.

Foreign sensitivities

Pathaan wasn't the only film that was steered away from a reference to Russia. Hollywood doesn't get a pass either: in the coming-of-age drama *The Fabelmans* (2022), a series of anti-Semitic slurs were muted. Common Sense says that the slurs reflected "shock of the antisemitic bullying and hate speech" that a Jewish character endures in the movie.

The Hindu reached out to Prasoon Joshi, the chairperson of the CBFC, for a response; none was forthcoming.

Centre drafting reply to SC on Adani stock

"How do we ensure that what happened does not happen again in the future?" the CJI had remarked on Friday. The Supreme Court has sought a note from market regulator, the Securities Exchange Board of India, on the regulatory framework for stock markets at its next hearing on Monday, and said it may even consider setting up an expert panel to act as a "wise guiding force" in the matter.

Ms. Sitharaman also hit back at criticism about the new personal income tax regime impacting the savings rate and investments in the country, or seeking to spur consumption over savings, hinting that these were needless "inferences" drawn about "a simple step towards giving more money in the hands of the middle class in particular".

"This measure of government was purely to reduce the tax burden on the middle class and to make sure that the promise which was given earlier a couple of years ago – which got delayed because of COVID and other reasons – that we will simplify the direct taxation, not only just simplify for compliance's sake, but also reduce the rate so that it doesn't become a burden on the shoulders of, particularly, the middle class," she emphasised. Dismissing the notion that the government should nudge householders towards certain savings, Ms. Sitharaman asked: "Why should I underestimate the decision-making ability of a householder who takes care of his family?"

"I don't think it is necessary for the government to even induce such measures. [He] is wise enough to know where to put his money. I have not discouraged him from doing anything, nor am I incentivising him to do anything," she said.

DRDO asks industry to join fifth generation fighter development

The new indigenous jet will be a fifth generation 25-tonne, multi-role and twin-engine stealth aircraft, which is being designed by the Aeronautical Development Agency; firms invited to participate as technology-cum-investment partners

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), under the Defence Research and Development Organisation, has invited Indian industry players to join the development and manufacture of the indigenous fifth generation fighter jet, the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA).

"To accelerate the development and production of the AMCA, the ADA is looking for interaction with prospective firms which are willing to participate as technology-cum-investment partners towards development and manufacturing of the AMCA," said a notification issued by the Agency, specifying that the invitation was for Indian companies only.

Based on the success of the indigenous light combat aircraft, the Centre has entrusted the Agency with the design of a new fighter jet for the Indian Air Force, which will be a fifth generation, medium-weight, multi-role and twin-engine aircraft. Responses are to be submitted by February 28, and a forum of interactions is planned on March 17 and 18, the ADA said.

Stealth fighter: The DRDO showcasing a model of the fifth-generation fighter at Aero India in February 2021. ANI

India's ambitious effort to build an indigenous fifth generation fighter, which only a handful of countries have accomplished, is in the critical design review phase and is now awaiting approval from the Cabinet Committee on Security. In 2009, the Union government had allocated ₹90 crore for a feasibility study on designing a fifth generation fighter, with an additional ₹447 crore sanctioned later.

Agency officials said that once the project is sanctioned, the first prototype could be rolled out in three years, with the first flight expected to take place in a year to a year-and-a-half after that, as reported earlier by *The Hindu*. Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., the production agency for the project, has already begun manufacturing activities.

Indigenous product

The AMCA is envisaged as a 25-tonne twin-engine stealth aircraft with an internal weapons bay and diverterless supersonic intake, which has been developed in India for the first time. It is intended to have an internal carriage of 1,500 kg of payload and 5,500 kg of external payload with 6,500 kg of internal fuel.

Last September, the Cabinet Committee on Security sanctioned the development of the LCA-Mk2, a new light combat aircraft, at a development cost of ₹9,000 crore, of which ₹2,500 crore has already been spent. The first prototype is expected to roll out in 2025-26 with the first flight planned for 2026-27, ADA officials said at the Def Expo 2022, held in Gandhinagar.

The LCA-Mk2 will be a heavier and much more capable aircraft than the current light combat variants as well as the LCA-Mk1A, 83 of which have been contracted under a ₹48,000-crore deal with the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. The IAF has given a commitment to procure six squadrons of the LCA-Mk2.

Trinamool functionaries among those who lost jobs after HC order

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

A day after the Calcutta High Court directed the termination of services of 1,911 government employees in the Group D category in West Bengal, names of several Trinamool Congress functionaries surfaced on Saturday on the list of those who lost their jobs in the West Bengal School Service Commission recruitment scam.

An investigation by the CBI has found that the OMR answer sheets of the 1,911 candidates were manipulated during the recruitment examination in 2016 for Group D employees in State-run schools.

Along with the termination, Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay directed that these candidates would not be allowed inside the premises of schools they were associated with and would have to return the salaries paid to them in instalments.

Direct links

At least four candidates with direct links with the State's ruling party have figured on the list. Dhaniram Barman, who is associated with the youth wing of the Trinamool in Coochbehar district, has lost his job as a Group D employee in a State-run school. Mr. Barman said that he started working with the Trinamool after the 2019 Lok Sabha election when he was already in employment.

In Bankura, Adesh Kumar Chattopadhyay and Uttam Chattopadhyay, both associated with the Trinamool and on the list, claimed that they got the jobs after appearing for the examination.

According to the Commission Chairperson, Siddhartha Majumdar, 8,163 candidates across different categories have been named by the CBI.

Japanese company to develop hotels in U.P. cities

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

A Japanese hotel chain, Hotel Management International Company Ltd., on Saturday signed a ₹7,200-crore memorandum of understanding with the Uttar Pradesh government to expand its chain of luxury hotels in 30 major cities in the State, including Ayodhya, Agra and Varanasi, creating over 10,000 job opportunities.

The MoU was signed on the second day of the three-day Uttar Pradesh Global Investors' Summit-2023 that began in Lucknow on Friday.

Lone Indian missing in quake-hit Turkey found dead under rubble

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The mortal remains of the lone Indian missing after last Monday's earthquake in Turkey has been found, the Embassy of India in Ankara has announced. The announcement coincided with the news that both Turkey and Syria had asked for additional supply of medicines and medical equipment.

"We inform with sorrow that the mortal remains of Shri. Vijay Kumar, an Indian national missing in Turkey since February 6 earthquake, have been found and identified among the debris of a hotel in Malatya, where he was on a business trip. Our deepest condolences to his family and loved ones. We are making arrangements for the earliest possible transportation of his mortal remains to his family," said the Indian Embassy in Turkey in an announcement.

Desperate attempt: Rescue workers searching for survivors in a collapsed building in Malatya, eastern Turkey. AP

Mr. Vijay Kumar, who hailed from Uttarakhand, was employed with Oxyplants India Private Ltd. of Bengaluru and was staying in a four-star hotel in Malatya. Apart from him, all other Indians in the earthquake-hit region were accounted for by the Indian team that was activated and flown to Turkey within hours of the tragedy.

A day after the earthquake, India sent four planeloads of relief material, equipment and personnel under 'Operation Dost'. Also, the country on Saturday sent its seventh flight carrying relief material to Turkey and Syria onboard a C-17 military transport aircraft.

World Hindi Conference in Fiji to highlight links with Pacific Ocean region: MEA

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India is working to ensure the "rightful place" for Hindi at the United Nations, a senior official of the Ministry of External Affairs said on Saturday.

Announcing the 12th World Hindi Conference to be held in Fiji from February 15 to 17, Saurabh Kumar, Secretary (East) of the Ministry of External Affairs, said the efforts of the Government of India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on promoting Hindi had enhanced the stature of the language across the world.

"We have achieved limited progress at the United Nations regarding Hindi. The UN has made a provision to provide all the important messages and press releases in Hindi. This provision has been made also for Bangla and Urdu. We will make efforts to ensure rightful place for Hindi at the UN," said Mr. Kumar, elaborating on the role of Hindi in India's outreach to the world, especially in places that received Indian indentured labourers during the 19th century.

Mr. Kumar said the upcoming World Hindi Conference in Fiji would provide an opportunity for India to highlight the links between India and the Pacific Ocean region where Hindi-speaking people from the Gangetic belt and from other parts of India were taken during the 19th century. A delegation of 270 academics, experts and Hindi writers would be flown to Fiji to participate in the conference.

> Thousands of Indians were taken to Fiji during the colonial period as labourers and today their descendants are proud of their Indian heritage and language
>
> **SAURABH KUMAR**
> Secretary (East), MEA

Indian heritage

"140 years ago, thousands of Indians were taken to Fiji during the colonial period as labourers and today their descendants residing in Fiji are proud of their Indian heritage and language," said Mr. Kumar.

The World Hindi Conference was started to promote the language across the world and the first such event was held in 1975 in Nagpur. "This year's World Hindi Conference is our humble tribute to those forefathers," said Mr. Kumar.

The conference will be inaugurated by Fiji's Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka and India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. The gathering will be addressed by Deputy Prime Minister of Fiji Biman Prasad who was recently on a visit to India. Mr. Prasad described the World Hindi Conference as "historic and appropriate".

"Fiji is probably the only country outside India that has Hindi as an official language. Hindi is being taught from primary to secondary schools and offered as a language of study in university. The new coalition government has just announced that Hindi along with English and our indigenous language will also be spoken in Parliament," Mr. Prasad said.

'Centre should pay for CAPF deployment during polls'

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

The West Bengal government has said that the cost of deployment of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) during the Assembly election should be borne by the Government of India and not by the States.

The statement came in response to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's statement on Friday that West Bengal owes ₹1,841 crore to the Centre for deployment of the CAPF in the State.

"The forces are deployed as per the instructions of the Election Commission. The consent of the State governments is not taken regarding the need for deployment of Central forces during these elections. Accordingly, the expenditure relating to deployment of CAPF personnel for election duty should be borne by the Government of India," a statement by the West Bengal government said. Hundreds of companies of the CAPFs were deployed in the State during the 2021 Assembly election, which was held in eight phases.

The State also added that Central forces overstay even after the election process is over.

ED arrests Raghava Magunta in Delhi excise policy scam

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Raghava Magunta, son of YSRCP MP Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy, for allegedly being one of the beneficiaries of the irregular formulation and implementation of the erstwhile Delhi excise policy.

This is the ninth arrest made by the agency in the money-laundering case.

According to the chargesheets by the agency, Mr. Magnuta and his father were part of the "South Group" – including TRS MLC K. Kavitha and Aurobindo Pharma director P. Sarath Chandra Reddy – which had paid about ₹100 crore through the then Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) communication in-charge Vijay Nair as "kickbacks" in advance.

Extending operations

In his statement to the ED, accused Sameer Mahendru, a liquor businessman and managing director of liquor manufacturing company Indo Spirits, had allegedly said that he had met the YSRCP MP for discussion about the liquor trade two or three times at his residence in Delhi. His son, Mr. Magunta, and another accused Butchibabu Gorantla were also present there.

Raghava Magunta

The MP expressed his keen interest in doing liquor trade in Delhi and said that his son would handle all the operations of the Delhi liquor trade, as alleged.

According to the ED, the new excise policy was brought out with an extraordinarily high 12% profit margin for wholesalers and almost a 185% profit margin for the retailers. As planned, half of the 12% margin was to be collected from the wholesalers as "kickbacks" for the AAP leaders.

Around ₹70 lakh from the "kickbacks" was paid in cash to volunteers in the AAP's survey teams through "hawala" channels for the election campaign, the ED has alleged.

Cong. pledges free power, healthcare in Meghalaya

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Congress, seeking to reclaim Meghalaya, has promised free roofing materials, 200 units of free power and free LPG cylinders for every family below the poverty line in the poll-bound State.

It has also committed to providing free healthcare for all citizens of the State and creating a corpus of ₹500 crore to build infrastructure for religious gatherings.

The grand old party is contesting all 60 seats in Meghalaya, where the Assembly election would be held on February 27.

Releasing the party's election manifesto, All India Congress Committee general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the party had outlined 14 "solemn and unwavering commitments" for the people of Meghalaya.

State party president Vincent H. Pala, MP, was among several Congress leaders at the programme in the State capital Shillong.

"We are committed to providing free education to every girl child in Meghalaya from kindergarten to 12th standard. This initiative of ours will go a long way in empowering every girl child to fulfil dreams, ambitions and aspirations," Mr. Ramesh said.

The party, he said, would soon unveil a free healthcare scheme for all citizens and announce the minimum support price for ginger, turmeric, broomstick, black pepper and other farm produce.

CPI(M), Cong. joined hands for lust of power, says Modi

PM says the Left parties and Congress fight against each other in Kerala, but have become friends in Tripura; he urged people to vote for the BJP and retain 'double engine' government in the State

The Hindu Bureau
AGARTALA

Addressing an election meeting in Dhalai district of Tripura on Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged voters to refrain from voting for the Left-Congress alliance and retain the "double engine" government in the State for the "continuation of peace, development and welfare schemes".

During the BJP's "Vijay Sankalp" rally in the district, Mr. Modi said that he would personally see that the poll promises made in the manifesto were implemented in the State. On Saturday, Mr. Modi addressed two rallies in Dhalai and Gomati districts. The Prime Minister is expected to visit the State again on Monday.

Lashing out at the alliance of the CPI(M) and the Congress, he said, "People of Tripura got rid of unbearable sufferings after the 'double engine' government came to power in 2018. Now, these parties [CPI(M) and Congress] had joined hands for the lust of power and bringing back the dark chapter."

Poll ready: PM Narendra Modi and Tripura CM Dr. Manik Saha during the election rally in Dhalai on Saturday. PTI

"You [people of Tripura] have seen governments of CPI(M) and Congress indulging in massive corruption. Tripura was deprived of development owing to misrule, violence and corruption. You had to bribe CPI(M) cadres for permitting you to build a house or buy a car," Mr. Modi said.

He also said that every single vote mattered to the BJP and people should make up their mind to vote only for lotus [BJP's party symbol]. Sharpening his attack, he wondered "how the CPI(M) and the Congress fight against each other in Kerala, while being friends in Tripura". He said, "This tie-up is nothing but a ploy to hinder development, welfare and peace initiatives, and create a complete anarchy in the State."

'TIPRA a small party'

Without mentioning the TIPRA Motha, Mr. Modi said "a few small parties were trying to split votes".

In Dhalai, Mr. Modi highlighted the initiatives that helped the tribal population, and claimed that Union government schemes had immensely benefited the indigenous community and the development could be seen everywhere in Tripura.

He also said his government had been successful in providing a permanent settlement to the Mizoram Bru tribe in the State.

Constitutional values will help to fight inequality: CJI

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Saturday said that the best and surest way to make inequality a distant dream of the past would be to inculcate the spirit of constitutionalism in society.

"But much work remains to be accomplished till we rest. The deep-rooted inequality, which fractured our society at the time of Independence, persists even today," CJI Chandrachud said at the first convocation ceremony of the Maharashtra National Law University in Nagpur.

He highlighted the difficulties faced by the "Father of the Constitution" B.R. Ambedkar. "The decks were stacked against Dr. Ambedkar because of a society diseased with caste and yet he persisted and went on to become one of the most towering personalities in the history of our country, probably the world," the CJI said.

CJI D.Y. Chandrachud with former CJI S.A. Bobde, left, and Justice Bhushan Gavai at Maharashtra National Law University. PTI

When confronted with a situation where one would have to choose between saying or doing nothing and saying or doing something, the first option might probably be safer and less risky, but choosing the more difficult one and making a realignment of law and society with justice, was being courageous, the Chief Justice of India said.

By attempting to make the world a better place, people would be upholding constitutional values, he added.

Talking about the Preamble to the Constitution, the CJI said that it was a short but weighty party to the Constitution, and stated that the people of India had given to themselves this Constitution.

He said everyone was a citizen of substance in the truest sense and there must be a fulfilment of the promise in the Preamble that the citizens would secure social, economic and political justice for all.

BJP follows RSS, not Constitution; it attacks truth, says Kharge

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

The BJP follows the orders of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), rather than the principles of the Constitution, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said on Saturday, in a sharp attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

He was addressing a meeting to launch the Congress's *Haath Se Haath Jodo* campaign in Jharkhand, launching the campaign in Sahebganj district of Jharkhand in the Santhal region comprising Pakur, Dumka, Godda, Jamtara and Deoghar.

The Congress leader said that under the Modi regime, whoever spoke, wrote or showed truth was put behind bars. He alleged that the BJP had a "huge washing machine" which could even clean the corrupt.

Mallikarjun Kharge

"BJP always tells lies; they are *jhooto ke sardar* (chieftains of liars)," Mr. Kharge said. "When I speak truth in favour of poor people in Parliament, my speech is expunged from the proceedings. When I called PM Modi *Mauni Baba* (mute saint), the Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha said that I cannot use this language. BJP is the one who first used these words *Mauni Baba* in Parliament. Vajpayee*ji* had used this word for our leader Narasimha Rao*ji*. BJP leaders called Manmohan Singh*ji Mauni Baba*. So why is my speech expunged when I use this word? Where is the freedom of speech?" Mr. Kharge asked.

'Tod-phod' politics

The Congress leader also accused Mr. Modi and Mr. Shah of indulging in *tod-phod* (destructive) politics. He said both leaders were skilled in splitting other parties to form their own government.

"Modi*ji* and Shah*ji* are very strong when the question comes of forming the government by breaking MLAs of other parties. In Karnataka, we [Congress] were in a majority but they broke the government, in Maharashtra too, they did the same, in Manipur and in Goa also. Everywhere they break the MLAs to form their own government and claim themselves democratic. They only do big talk but never follow the Constitution," he said.

He alleged that the BJP may talk about the Constitution, but only followed the RSS orders. He added that whenever elections were round the corner, the BJP engaged itself in discussing the Hindu-Muslim divide in order gain political benefit.

All institutions, even the media, have been subjugated to BJP: Mehbooba

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti has said that there was a time when the Emergency was seen as one of the darkest periods of Indian democracy, but even then, the "judiciary had the guts to unseat the Prime Minister" of the time but "today it cannot unseat even an MLA of the ruling party".

Ms. Mufti, the chief of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), said in an interview to *The Hindu* that all institutions, including the media, were subjugated to the BJP. "What did the farmers get from the judiciary? They did not get any relief. But we must struggle and strive. Whatever is possible," Ms. Mufti said, when asked about a bunch of petitions that challenged the removal of special status given to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution that are still pending in the Supreme Court. She was referring to the farmers' agitation of 2020-21 that led the government to scrap three farm laws.

Mehbooba Mufti

Ms. Mufti hit out at the J&K administration for the ongoing drive against the alleged encroachers on 'State' land.

"It is a disastrous drive, you are treating the whole population of J&K, especially the majority community, as encroachers on their own land. You are not respecting any laws which were there before 2019, according to which people had taken over this land... It is a reversal of land to the tiller policy; J&K was the first State to adopt those reforms," she said.

On being asked about the lack of street protests in the Kashmir Valley after August 2019 when Article 370 was blunted, Ms. Mufti said, "Who is going to protest? You are not able to speak normally within the four walls of the house because of surveillance, anybody who even utters a word is taken to the police station... If someone is coughing, you put a tape around their mouth and then say he is not coughing at all."

She asked why the Kashmiri Pandits were protesting in Jammu if the situation was normal.

India is the birthplace of Islam, says Jamiat chief

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India and not Arabia is the birth place of Islam said Maulana Mahmood Madani, stirring a fresh debate at the 34th general session of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind in New Delhi on Saturday.

"India is the birthplace of Islam. The first prophet descended here. It is the homeland of Muslims. To consider Islam as a foreign religion is historically incorrect and completely baseless," the Jamiat president said, adding that India is the best country for Muslims. It is like one's house is the best place, no matter however dilapidated it might be.

Women should be at centre of all discourse: Irani at G-20 meeting

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

To be ready for the future, nations have to make sure that women are at the centre of all discourse and decision-making, Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani said.

"If you want to get your future right, if you want to be future ready, make sure that women are at the centre of the discourse and that women are at the centre of your decisions," she said at a G-20 meeting in Agra on Saturday. She said the success of women's self-help groups shows the importance of women's leadership at grassroots level, and efforts for ensuring availability of banking and financial services.

The Union Minister also highlighted the quest for gender justice in India through a gender inclusion fund in the National Education Policy.

Medical Counselling Committee (MCC)
Directorate General of Health Services
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Government of India

All the NEET SS 2022 eligible candidates are hereby informed that as per the decision of MoHFW there will be a reduction in percentile for Super specialty counselling for the academic year 2022 and all candidates above 20th percentile will be eligible for SS counselling (for D.M / M.Ch / DNB SS Courses) in compliance with the directions of competent authority.
Hence, a special Mop Up Round will be conducted by Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) of DGHS in compliance to the directions of MoHFW. Candidates should visit MCC website (www.mcc.nic.in) for Terms & Conditions/eligibility and schedule of Special Mop Up Round. Kindly stay in touch with the website for latest updates.

कार्यालय अति. मुख्य अभियंता, सा.नि.वि., साभ्भाग-द्वितीय, जयपुर
पी.डब्ल्यू.डी. कैम्पस, जैकब रोड, जयपुर क्लब के सामने, जयपुर,
Email: acezoneii@yahoo.com/acejaipur2.pwd-rj
फोन: 0141-5110537, 5110501, एक्स-299, फैक्स: 0141-5110537
क्रमांक: 2529 दिनांक: 2.2.2023
संशोधित अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना संख्या-32/2022-23
इस कार्यालय के पत्र क्रमांक 2447 दिनांक 20.01.2023 द्वारा प्रकाशित अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना संख्या- 32/2022-23 में अपरिहार्य कारणों से निविदा तिथियों में निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है:

विवरण	पूर्व में प्रकाशित तिथियां	संशोधित तिथियां
निविदा फार्म डाउनलोड करने की तारीख	23.01.2023 सायं 05.00 बजे से	23.01.2023 सायं 05.00 बजे से
निविदा फार्म अपलोड करने की अंतिम दिनांक	23.01.2023 सायं 05.00 बजे से दिनांक 02.02.2023 को सायं 06.00 बजे तक	23.01.2023 सायं 05.00 बजे से दिनांक 10.02.2023 को सायं 06.00 बजे तक
प्री-क्वालिफिकेशन बिड (पार्ट-1 खोलने की दिनांक)	03.02.2023 सायं 02.00 बजे	13.02.2023 सायं 02.00 बजे

निविदा की शेष शर्तें यथावत रहेगी। UBN: PWD2223WL0B15059
DIPR/C/2199/2023
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता
सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग द्वितीय, जयपुर

PURABI DAIRY — The West Assam Milk Producers' Cooperative Union Limited (WAMUL), World Bank Financed Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART)
Ref No. MD/PC/APART/E-Tender/2022-23/10 Dated : 12-02-2023
E-procurement Tender Notice
The West Assam Milk Producers' Cooperative Union Limited (WAMUL) is an implementing agency of World Bank Financed (APART) Project and now intends to purchase the following items from the eligible bidder as mentioned below:

Sl. No.	Categories	Date of Publishing Tender on www.assamtenders.gov.in	Last date of Submission of Quotations
1	Milk crates	14.02.2023	09.03.2023
2	Laptop PC	15.02.2023	09.03.2023
3	Ice Cream Deep Freezer	16.02.2023	18.03.2023
4	Mechanized Chaff Cutter	17.02.2023	10.03.2023
5	Silage Making Unit	17.02.2023	10.03.2023
6	Office Furniture	20.02.2023	13.03.2023

The details of the E-tender will be published and available at www.assamtenders.gov.in as mentioned above. If any corrigendum is issued, it will be published in www.assamtenders.gov.in on or before last date and timing for submission of bid. No separate notification for publication of corrigendum or extension of last date of submission of bid will be made through Newspaper advertisement.
Sd/-
Managing Director, WAMUL

INVITATION FOR AUCTION SALE ON BEHALF OF THE DEBT'S RECOVERY TRIBUNAL NO.1, AT ERNAKULAM, KERALA
SALE OF INDIAN FLAG VESSEL/CARGO SHIP "GREAT SEA VEMBANAD" PURSUANT TO THE ORDER OF THE DEBT'S RECOVERY TRIBUNAL No.I, AT ERNAKULAM DATED 30-01-2023 IN I.A.NO.474 OF 2022 IN O.A.No.407 OF 2015
Sealed tenders are invited for the sale of the Vessel/Cargo Ship "GREAT SEA VEMBANAD" presently berthed at the private yard of **M/s Tisha Navigation Private Limited, Small Craft building unit ,Holy Family Church, Munambam, Pallipuram P.O, Ernakulam-683515, Kerala, India**, for the recovery of arrears of loan and other charges.
MAIN PARTICULARS OF VESSEL/CARGO SHIP
Name : **Great Sea-Vembanad;** Port of Registry: **Kochi ;** Official Number : **4069;** Callsign: **AVXJ ;** IMO Number : **9680700;** Type of Vessel : **River Sea Vessel Type-3-Cargo ship other than Dredger and Tanker;** Length Overall : **59.03 M;** Maximum Breadth : **11.40 M;** Moulded Depth: **4.00 M ;** Design Draft: **2.80 M;** Dead Weight: **1036 MT;** Light Ship : **441.54 MT** Main Engine: **3 x 148 HP ALM 412, Triple Propeller with Twin rudder;** Generator: **2 x Kirloskar 82 KVA ;** Measurement of the hatch covers: **7 M x 5 M;** Total number of hatch Covers : **7 Nos;** Approximate weight of the each Hatch Covers: **8 MT** Total weight of the Hatch Covers: **56 MT;** Hatch Cover is located at Azhikkal Port, Kannur **WHEEL HOUSE:** Standard Magnetic Compass: **1,** Radar: **1 – 9 GHz SAMYUNG SMR 3700,** GPS: **1 – SAMYUNG SPR – 1400,** Rudder Angle Indicator: **Provided.** Echosounder : **1 – Hondex HE 770,** AIS : **1 – SAMYUNG**, Navtex receiver : **1 – SAMYUNG SNX – 300**, VHF Radio: **1 – STR 6000A**, MF/HF Transceiver: **1 – SAMYUNG SRG 1150DN** **ENGINE ROOM:** Main Engines: **3 x 148 HP Leyland ALM 412 Mark II**, Auxiliary Engines: **2 x 82 k V A Kirloskar** Emergency Generator (Located in The after part): **1 x 35 k V A Kirloskar,** Ballast/GS Pump : **2 x 37.5 k W, 80m3/hr**, Air Compressor : **2 x Wood peeker** Oily Water Separator : **1 x RWOGmbh**, Sewage Treatment Plant : **1 x Jonghap** Hatch Cover (9 m x 5 m x 7 nos): **8 M T each (Located at Azhikkal Port, Kannur)** Estimated Value: **Rs. 2,45,50,000/- (Rupees Two Crores Forty Five Lakhs Fifty thousand only),** EMD : **Rs. 24,55,000/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lakhs Fifty five thousand only)** Vessel/Cargo ship open for Inspection on: **02-02-2023 to 09-03-2023, Between 11.00 AM to 5.00PM** Costs of Tender Documents: **Rs.3,000/-** , Last date for receiving the Tenders: **10-03-2023** Date and Time of opening the tenders: **13-03-2023.** The Tender document may be purchased from **Adv. Abu Mathew Advocate Commissioner** by non refundable Demand Draft of **Rs.3,000/- (Rupees Three thousand only)** drawn in favour of the **Registrar Debts Recovery Tribunal No.I, Ernakulam, Kerala payable at Ernakulam.** Terms and Conditions: **The sale is on " AS IS WHAT IS AND AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION ONLY " More details about the Terms and Conditions are mentioned in the Tender Form. Adv. Abu Mathew, Advocate Commissioner, C/o. Registrar, Debts Recovery Tribunal No.I, Panampilly Nagar, Ernakulam District, Kerala, India, Pin-682 036. Cell:96-33-95-0-666.**

INDIAN INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY
JEE (Advanced) 2023
Joint Entrance Examination [JEE (Advanced) 2023] for admission to various programs (listed at https://jeeadv.ac.in) of all IITs will be held as per the following schedule:-

Date : Sunday, June 04, 2023	
Paper – 1	09:00 – 12:00 IST
Paper – 2	14:30 – 17:30 IST

Both the papers are compulsory.
JEE (Advanced) 2023 will be conducted in Computer Based Test (CBT) mode.
Visit https://jeeadv.ac.in for details & updates.
Organizing Chairperson

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, P.H.E.D., CIRCLE SRIGANGANAGAR
Near DAV School, Water Works Campus, Sriganganagar, Phone No.0154-2445031 Email rj_segan@nic.in
No. 12472-12502 Date:- 30/01/2023
NOTICE INVITING BID No.96-97/2022-23
Online Bids for 2 Works sanction under Jal Jeevan Mission are invited from interested bidders upto 23-02-2023 06:00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal http:/eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in of the state and www.phedwater.rajasthan.gov.in in departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 370.50 Lacs. UBN No. on SPP Portal are as under:-

NIB No.	UBN No.	NIB No.	UBN No.
96/2022-23	PHE2223WSOB12519	97/2022-23	PHE2223WSOB12521

Superintending Engineer
PHED CIRCLE Sriganganagar
DIPR/C/1997

KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION
(Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises, Govt' of India)
Website: kvic.gov.in
Central Sliver Plant, Kuttur, P.O-Thrissur, Kerala- 680013
Phone: 0487 2387119, 2387120/ Email:cspthrissur.kvic@gov.in/ kviccsptrichur@gmail.com
NO. CSP/KUTTUR/REFURBISH-TENDER/2022-23/701 DATE:10-02-2023
E-TENDER NOTICE
Central Sliver plant, Kuttur, Trichur a departmental unit of Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises, Govt. of India, inviting tender for the following items through GeM portal. Tender may be downloaded from GeM portal/ KVIC web site, https://gem.gov.in/ or www.kvic.gov.in

Sl No.	Particulars	GeM No.	Closing date/time
1	Supply and commission of Air Compressor, Air receiver, Air dryer and Line filters at CSP, KVIC, Kuttur	GEM/2023/B/3009430	16-02-2023, 15:00 Hrs
2	Supply of Cans (plastics)	GEM/2023/B/3015722	13-02-2023, 15:00 Hrs
3	Engagement of Skilled ManPower for erection of Textile machineries	GEM/2023/B/3019696	20-02-2023, 15:00 Hrs

PROJECT MANAGER, CSP, KVIC, KUTTUR

जल संसाधन विभाग
कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, नर्मदा नहर परियोजना, वृत प्रथम सांचौर
क्रमांक : लेखा/निविदा/2022-23/3808 दिनांक : 01/02/2023
ई - निविदा सूचना संख्या 02 / 2022-23
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल की ओर से ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट प्रक्रिया से कार्य Raising, Fortification, Remodeling and strengthening of dowel, banks, diggies and canal system of Sanchore lift distributary system, Jaisla distributary system, Vank distributary system, Balera distributary system, Isrol distributary system (various distributaries system of Narmada Canal Project) Tehsil - Sanchore & Chitalwana District & Ratoda distributary system, Keriya distributary system, Bhimguda distributary system, Gandhav distributary system Tehsil- Chitalwana and Sedwa District - Jalore and Barmer इत्यादि का निर्माण कार्य की निविदा ऑनलाईन आमन्त्रित की जाती है। जल संसाधन विभाग राजस्थान सरकार में उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत हो या के.लो.नि.वि.ए डाक, दूरसंचार, रेलवे में व अन्य राज्य सरकारों/ केन्द्रीय सरकार के उपक्रमों/ संगठनों के पास सूचीबद्ध ठेकेदार जो राजस्थान के पात्र श्रेणी के समतुल्य हो भी कार्य के लिए निविदा हेतु विहित अग्रिम धनराशि देने के पश्चात पात्र है। निविदा प्रपत्र ऑनलाईन दिनांक 08.02.2023 प्रातः 09.30 बजे से दिनांक 27.02.2023 सांय 6.00 बजे तक डाउनलोड करके निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 08.02.2023 प्रातः 10.00 बजे से दिनांक 27.02.2023 सांय 06.00 बजे तक ऑनलाईन अपलोड किये जा सकेंगे। निविदा के तकनीकी बिड दिनांक 01.03.2023 को सांय 03.00 बजे ऑनलाईन खोले जायेंगे। कार्यों की प्री-बिड मिटिंग दिनांक 14.02.2023 को प्रातः 11.00 बजे अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के कक्ष में होगी। कार्य की अनुमानित लागत, धरोहर राशि, प्रोसेसिंग फीस व कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि तथा अन्य शर्तें वेबसाईट www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in & www.dipronline.org. www:sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखें।
NIB : WRD2223A0675
1. WRD2223WSOB02622 2. WRD2223WSOB02623
(श्रीफल मीना) अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
नर्मदा नहर परियोजना वृत प्रथम सांचौर
मो.नं. 9460142350
DIPR/C/2059/23

INBRIEF

Murmu for conserving traditional varieties of rice

President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday called upon scientists to find a middle path between preserving and conserving traditional varieties of rice, on the one hand, and maintaining ecological balance, on the other. Ms. Murmu, addressing the 2nd Indian Rice Congress at National Rice Research Institute, Cuttack, said the NRRI scientists were seeking solutions by collecting, identifying and characterising unique rice germplasm that can survive cultivation challenges. "Another challenge is to save the soil from excessive use of fertilzers," she added.

Lalu Prasad returns to India after surgery in Singapore

Former Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Prasad returned to New Delhi on Saturday evening after undergoing a kidney transplant surgery in Singapore in December. He was received by his daughter and Rajya Sabha member, Misa Bharti, and will be staying with her for some days in Delhi, party sources said. The Rashtriya Janata Dal president had been suffering from acute kidney complications and was advised a transplant. After his another daughter, Rohini Acharya, came forward as a donor, the transplant was done on December 5. PTI

Shah to visit Bihar on Feb. 22; grand alliance rally on Feb. 25

With the Lok Sabha election in 2024 fast-approaching, the battle between the seven-party alliance of Mahagatbandhan and the BJP on the Bihar turf is getting heated up. While the Mahagathbandhan (grand alliance) will be holding a joint rally in Purnia district in northeast Bihar on February 25, Union Home Minister Amit Shah is scheduled to make his third visit to the State after the JD(U) snapped its ties with the BJP in 2022. Mr. Shah is scheduled to participate in the birth anniversary of peasant leader Swami Sahajanand Saraswati in Patna on February 22.

Women vandalise liquor shop demanding its closure in U.P.

A group of protesters led by women vandalised a liquor shop at Patpara village in Chandauli district of Uttar Pradesh on Saturday as the authorities did not pay heed to their demand to close the shop for the past six months. The villagers also attacked the salesperson and blocked a road. They alleged that as the shop is close to the village, it had become a den for anti-social elements, who create ruckus in the area. The police said they are probing the matter.

SUDOKU

		8	6				3	
	1				2			7
				8		1		
1	5					4	6	
3				9				8
	6	2					7	1
		7		4				
6			9				8	
	9				5	7		

No.SS5707 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

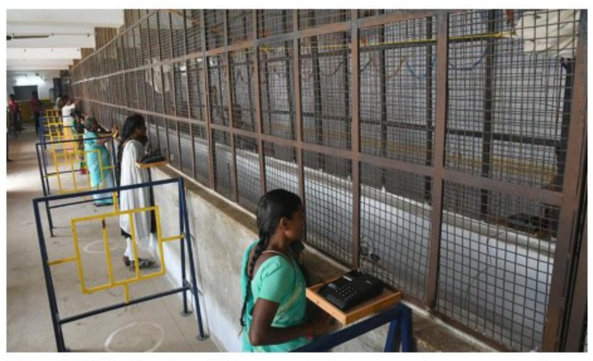
Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	9	5	6	4	1	8	2	3
6	2	4	3	7	8	5	9	1
1	8	3	5	9	2	4	7	6
4	7	1	2	5	3	9	6	8
8	3	6	9	1	7	2	5	4
2	5	9	8	6	4	3	1	7
9	1	2	4	3	6	7	8	5
3	6	8	7	2	5	1	4	9
5	4	7	1	8	9	6	3	2

SC steps in for undertrial prisoners unable to furnish surety, bail bonds

Among other directions, court says 'temporary bail' be granted to the prisoners so that they can go out and arrange for bail bonds and sureties; about 5,000 undertrial prisoners languishing in jails despite getting bail, a NALSA report had found

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Way out: The Bench said that courts, in appropriate cases, could grant prisoners 'temporary bail' so that they could arrange for sureties and bail bonds. C. VENKATACHALAPATHY

The Supreme Court has issued a slew of directions to ensure that undertrial prisoners who have got bail, but are too poor to furnish surety and bail bonds, are released within seven days.

The court has even suggested granting "temporary bail" to undertrial prisoners so that they can go out and arrange for bail bonds and sureties.

The order by a Bench led by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul came in the wake of a National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) report in January that nearly 5,000 undertrial prisoners were in jail in the country despite courts granting them bail.

They were either accused in multiple cases, or were simply too impoverished to comply with the bail conditions.

The *amicus curiae*, advocate Gaurav Agrawal, said that 2,357 of these 5,000 prisoners were provided legal assistance and 1,417 were released, but the fundamental violation of the right to personal liberty of prisoners continues.

Digital changes

Mr. Agrawal said that meetings had been held with the Home Ministry, the NALSA and the National Informatics Centre (NIC) to devise changes in the e-prisons software used in 1,300 prisons across the country, so that these prisoners were digitally recognised as a separate category called "bailed-out-but-not-released".

Agreeing with the urgency shown in the NALSA report and Mr. Agrawal's suggestions, the court has issued seven directions to ensure that no bailed-out undertrial prisoner suffers prison because of poverty.

For one, the Bench directed that courts should send soft copies of bail orders to the prison authorities on the same or the next day.

The jail superintendent should record the date of the bail in the e-prisons software, the Bench added.

The prison authorities should then inform the district legal services authorities (DLSA) concerned if an undertrial prisoner is not released within seven days of the grant of bail.

The DLSA would depute a volunteer or an advocate to visit the jail and "assist the prisoner in all ways possible for his release".

'Temporary bail'

The NIC would "make attempts" to create separate fields in the e-prison software to record the date of grant of bail and the date of release.

An automatic mail should be sent to the Secretary, DLSA, if a prisoner is not released in seven days.

Paralegal volunteers or probation officers will enquire into the economic condition of such prisoners and place it before the courts with a request to relax bail conditions.

The Bench directed that courts, in appropriate cases, could grant prisoners "temporary bail" so that they could arrange for sureties and bail bonds.

***Suo motu* action**

The Bench further said that in cases in which bail bonds were not furnished within one month of granting the bail, the court concerned "may *suo motu* take up the case and consider whether the conditions of bail require modification/relaxation".

The Bench said that courts need not insist on local sureties, as ready availability of them have often been a cause of delay in releasing bailed prisoners.

SIT to probe Maharashtra journalist murder case

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) will be set up to probe the alleged murder of a Marathi daily journalist, Shashikant Warishe, in Ratnagiri district, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Saturday.

On February 6, Warishe was mowed down by an SUV allegedly driven by a land broker, Pandharinath Amberkar, who was a supporter of Ratnagiri Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd. at Barsu, while the victim was extensively reporting on issues related to the setting up of the unit.

Recently, Warishe wrote an article against Mr. Amberkar titled "Photo of criminal alongside PM, CM and DCM claim farmers protesting against refinery". Journalists across the State had demanded the State to invoke the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) against the accused, and the case to be tried in a fast-track court.

Movement to get horizontal quota for trans people gains momentum

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The NALSA judgment calls for the community to be included in the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes. AFP

Nearly nine years after the historic National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) judgment of the Supreme Court, which recognised transgender persons as a third gender and issued directions to protect their rights and dignity, a movement to secure horizontal reservation for them in public education and employment is gaining momentum. It includes a legal battle that seeks to modify a part of the landmark 2014 judgment.

Though the judgment directed the Union and the State governments to provide transgender people "all kinds of reservation" in admissions to educational institutions and in employment, the transgender community in India continues to fight for its enforcement. But since the judgment also called for trans people to be treated as part of the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes, which ran the risk of clubbing them with OBCs, the community is seeking to ensure separate trans reservation across all categories.

However, with the Union government disclosing in a reply in Parliament that it was not considering any proposal to provide trans people with quotas, activists, scholars and lawyers told *The Hindu* that their movement for quota will only intensify now.

Grace Banu, a Chennai-based activist, is preparing to approach the Supreme Court for a clarification on the direction in the NALSA judgment that may run the risk of clubbing transgender people with OBCs on quotas. The Delhi-based activist Jane Kaushik's petition in the Delhi High Court for horizontal reservation is awaiting the government's reply.

'Against judgment'

Bittu Kondaiah, an activist and Associate Professor of Biology and Psychology at Ashoka University, said the campaign for reservation would definitely intensify now. Jayna Kothari, one of the advocates who in the Karnataka High Court fought for and won 1% horizontal reservation for trans people, said, "The comment of the government [in Parliament] is actually going against the NALSA judgment."

The Social Justice Ministry had said that the law already prohibited all kinds of discrimination against transgender people.

"They can give reservation to EWS (Economically Weaker Sections) but not to us? For 70-plus years, we have been begging and doing sex work and we have nothing at all. They have created an Act, which sends a message but does not give us our rights.," Ms. Banu, who founded and runs the Trans Rights Now Collective, said.

"It is inexplicable why the government is not considering it. For that matter, do you think OBCs are more discriminated against than transgender people," asked Ayesha, a 25-year-old Zoology (Honours) graduate from the Delhi University.

Professor Kondaiah explained that while there are general category trans people who might feel clubbing with OBCs will help, the trans community is slowly coming to a consensus that horizontal reservation is "more realisable and more likely to pass politically also."

OBC quota?

Before declaring in Parliament that it was not considering quotas for trans people, the Union Social Justice Ministry was until 2021 mulling a proposal to include them in the OBC category.

"My understanding of the direction is that while it is couched as though the Centre and the States are to only take steps, but the intent of the direction is that you will certainly provide reservation, treating them as part of OBC category," senior advocate Saurabh Kirpal said. But nothing in the NALSA judgment prevents a State or the Centre from bringing reservation within each category (Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and so on) as the Karnataka government did on the heels of a High Court order for a 1% across-the-board reservation, said Mr. Kirpal, the first openly gay lawyer to be cleared for a High Court judgeship by the SC Collegium.

No data on Kovind returning any Cabinet decision: RTI reply

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

Replying to the plea, the President's Secretariat said, 'No such information is available'

The Rashtrapati Bhavan has said that there is no information available on former President Ram Nath Kovind returning any decision taken by the Union Council of Ministers for reconsideration.

Responding to a query raised by a Chennai-based college student under the Right to Information Act, 2005, on the number of times former President Kovind "had returned a decision taken by the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers, the Cabinet, Parliament, and the Union Ministries for reconsideration", the President's Secretariat said, "No such information is available".

Not satisfied with the reply, Yuvan Mithran, the petitioner, filed an appeal before the First Appellate Authority (FAA), Rashtrapati Bhavan, wondering whether the reply meant that the former President had never returned a decision or whether the information relating to the number of times Mr. Kovind had returned a file was not available. To this, the Officer on Special Duty/FAA referred the appeal to the section concerned, which reiterated its early reply.

"We feel that the President's Secretariat seems to have evaded to give a clear and satisfactory reply to our RTI query and also to the subsequent clarifications raised," Raj Kapil, the student's criminology professor who guided him through the process of filing the RTI petition and appeal, said.

'Shocking revelation'

The fact that no such information was available was shocking since it gave an impression that the President's Secretariat itself did not have the required information on the number of times the President returned a decision taken by the Council of Ministers for reconsideration, Mr. Kapil said.

"This raises a question on transparency and accountability on the part of the former President in exercising the Suspensive Veto which provides another opportunity to amend some law/policy decision sent for the assent of the President... the reply of the FAA shows the reluctance to give a clear picture on the information sought which leads to larger questions of accountability," Mr. Kapil told *The Hindu*.

Trinamool leader rakes up killing of youth by BSF

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Saturday raised the issue of the killing of a Rajbanshi youth in Coochbehar district of West Bengal by the Border Security Force (BSF) personnel, and promised to bring the guilty to book.

"The post-mortem report said that his body had 180 bullet injuries," Mr. Banerjee said.

Seeking court's powers for return of a jumbo

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Ratneswar Gogoi wants the Supreme Court to use its rare extraordinary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to do "complete justice" and bring his elephant, Rongmala, back to him.

It has been nearly two years since the authorities took Rongmala away. The elephant had never lived far from the Gogoi family. She was legally purchased and brought home by Mr. Gogoi's grandfather in the year 1965.

Rongmala

Rongmala was taken into "custody" by the authorities in the Nameri forests of Assam in August 2021. An FIR said that she was used to illegally transport Nahor timber. Recently, during the Supreme Court hearing on the case, the Assam government lawyer made a light-hearted comment about how the FIR mentioned that Rongmala was caught "red-handed".

In custody for 1.7 years

But Mr. Gogoi, whose pleas from the Magistrate court to the Gauhati High Court for her release yielded no results, narrates a different story in his petition filed through advocate Avijit Roy before the Supreme Court.

According to him, Rongmala was taken for grazing by his uncle on the fateful day. While returning they were accosted by the "informant", based on whose complaint the FIR was registered, for ₹1,000.

His uncle refused to pay and the complaint followed.

Mr. Gogoi said that Rongmala was known to the Forest Department, which issues her transit passes for grazing in the forest. She is microchipped and the details of her legal owner are encrypted on the chip. No smuggled wood was seized and no weapons were recovered.

"Interestingly, the persons accused of smuggling the timber are not arrested, but the elephant is in custody for the past 1.7 years. She requires care by its owner. Not getting it would be highly detrimental to her health," Mr. Roy argued.

The petition has urged the top court, in the "interest of justice and for the welfare of the elephant", to exercise its power under Article 142 to release the elephant to its owner's care.

The Court has directed the Assam government to file an affidavit.

TEHRAN

Iran marks 44th anniversary of Islamic Revolution amid protests

AP

Iran on Saturday celebrated the 44th anniversary of the 1979 Islamic Revolution amid nationwide anti-government protests and heightened tensions with the West. Thousands of Iranians marched through major streets and squares decorated with flags, balloons and placards with revolutionary and religious slogans. AP

COLOMBO

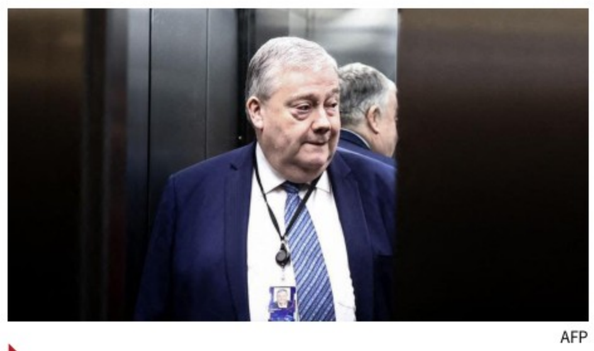
Wickremesinghe seeks support of Tamils for country's development

REUTERS

Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremesinghe said on Saturday he was committed to devolution of power within a unitary state as a solution to the country's ethnic issue and underlined the need for Tamil diaspora's engagement for the development of the conflict-battered northern region. PTI

BRUSSELS

Belgian lawmaker charged in EU corruption probe after searches



AFP

Prosecutors charged Marc Tarabella. a Belgian lawmaker in the European Parliament, with corruption after searching his bank safe as part of a probe into a bribery scandal that has rocked the EU. The so-called Qatargate scandal has caused the EU Parliament to hastily seek reforms looking to curb outside influence. AFP

JERUSALEM

Palestinian man, Israeli child die as bloodshed continues in the area

AP

An Israeli settler fatally shot a Palestinian in the northern West Bank on Saturday, Palestinian health officials said, while a child injured in a car-ramming in Jerusalem died a day after the attack. Also on Saturday, Israel said Palestinian militants fired a rocket from the Gaza Strip that was intercepted by Israeli aerial defences. AP

Biden, Lula vow to defend democracy in Americas

The U.S. and Brazilian Presidents stress their mutual commitment to saving the Amazon rainforest and fighting global warming; Ukraine war, on which the leaders disagree, does not find mention

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden and his Brazilian counterpart Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said on Friday at the White House that the two biggest countries in the Americas have successfully seen off attacks on their democracies and will now work together on fighting the climate crisis.

"Both our nations' strong democracies have been tested," Mr. Biden told Lula, and "both in the United States and Brazil, democracy prevailed."

Meeting in the Oval Office, Mr. Biden and Lula expressed solidarity over their similar paths.

Mr. Biden defeated Donald Trump in 2020, but two months later, a mob of Trump supporters stormed the Capitol building of the U.S. Congress believing his conspiracy theory that he'd been the real election winner. In Brazil, Lula defeated right-winger Jair Bolsonaro and took office this January, but a mob of Bolsonaro supporters stormed government buildings shortly after.

Same path: Joe Biden, right and Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva at the White House in Washington DC on Friday. AFP

"We have some issues on which we can work together," Lula told Mr. Biden. "First is to never again allow" the anti-democratic mob attacks.

Mr. Biden and Lula stressed their mutual commitment to saving the Amazon rainforest and fighting global warming – efforts that Mr. Bolsonaro and Mr. Trump both sidelined.

Brazil is seeking U.S. participation in the Amazon Fund, an international scheme to finance anti-deforestation efforts in Brazil, and Lula walked away from the Oval Office voicing moderate confidence that would happen.

"I think they will," Lula told reporters. "I not only think they will, but I think that it's necessary they participate."

In a joint U.S.-Brazil statement that followed the meeting, the White House said it hoped to "work with Congress to provide funds for programs to protect and conserve the Brazilian Amazon, including initial support for the Amazon Fund."

Lula told Mr. Biden in the Oval Office that during his 2003-2010 term as President, he had committed Brazil to drastic reductions in the deforestation of the world's largest rainforest, which is often described as the "lungs of the world" for its massive greenhouse gas absorption.

Troubled past

However, "in the last few years, the rainforest in the Amazon was invaded by political irrationality, human irrationality, because we had a President who sent people to deforest, sent gold diggers into the Indigenous areas," he said, referring to Mr. Bolsonaro.

Mr. Biden has made U.S. leadership on fighting climate change one of his main priorities – starting by putting the United States back into the Paris climate accord.

One area where Mr. Biden and Lula sharply disagree is over Ukraine, and the subject of Russia's invasion did not come up during their introductory remarks, before reporters were ushered from the Oval Office.

U.S. jet shoots down unknown flying object off northern coast of Alaska

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

A U.S. military fighter jet shot down an unknown object flying off the northern coast of Alaska on Friday on orders from U.S. President Joe Biden, White House officials said.

White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said the object was downed because it was flying at about 40,000 feet (13,000 meters) and posed a "reasonable threat" to the safety of civilian flights, not because of any knowledge that it was engaged in surveillance. Asked about the object's downing, Mr. Biden on Friday said only that "It was a success."

Mr. Kirby described the object as roughly the size of a small car, much smaller than the massive suspected Chinese spy balloon downed by Air Force fight jets on Saturday off the coast of South Carolina.

Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder

The twin downings in such close succession are extraordinary, and reflect heightened concerns over China's surveillance programme and public pressure on Mr. Biden to take a tough stand against it. Still, there were few answers about the unknown object downed on Friday and the White House drew distinctions between the two episodes. Officials could not say if the latest object contained any surveillance equipment, where it came from or what purpose it had.

The Pentagon on Friday declined to provide a more precise description of the object, only saying that U.S. pilots who flew up to observe it determined it did not appear to be manned. Officials said the object was far smaller than the previous balloon, did not appear to be maneuverable and was travelling at a much lower altitude.

Mr. Kirby maintained that Mr. Biden, based on the advice of the Pentagon, believed it posed enough of a concern to shoot it out of the sky – primarily because of the potential risk to civilian aircraft.

The President was briefed on the presence of the object on Thursday evening after two fighter jets surveilled it.

Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder, Pentagon press secretary, told reporters on Friday that an F-22 fighter aircraft based at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson shot down the object using an AIM-9X short-range air-to-air missile, the same type used to take down the balloon nearly a week ago.

The object fell onto frozen waters and officials expected they could recover debris faster than from last week's massive balloon. Mr. Ryder said the object was traveling northeast when it was shot down.

Pakistan mob beats man to death over 'blasphemy'

Agence France-Presse
ISLAMABAD

A mob of youngsters beat a Muslim man to death in Pakistan on Saturday after the victim was accused of blasphemy, the police said, the latest killing in the country related to religious sensitivities.

Blasphemy is a hugely sensitive issue in Muslim-majority Pakistan, where even unproven allegations can stir mobs and violence.

Hundreds of youths stormed a police station where the man was being held for his protection in the Nankana Sahib district of Punjab province, about 80 km from the eastern city of Lahore.

They wounded officers and vandalised the facility before beating the man to death, the police said.

Officers said the victim, in his mid-30s, was accused of desecrating the Koran, the Muslim holy book.

"The mob stormed the police station and beat him to death," local police spokesman said. "After killing him they tried to set his body ablaze."

Mr. Khalid said authorities were working on identifying the attackers responsible for the man's death.

Reduced to rubble: At least 6,000 buildings collapsed as a result of the 7.8-magnitude tremor that hit parts of Turkey and Syria. AP

Turkey detains 12 over collapsed buildings following earthquake

Agence France-Presse
ISTANBUL

The Turkish police have detained 12 persons over collapsed buildings in the southeastern provinces of Gaziantep and Sanliurfa, local media reported on Saturday, following the huge quake that hit Turkey.

Those taken into custody included contractors, DHA news agency said. At least 6,000 buildings collapsed after a 7.8-magnitude tremor hit the region, killing more than 25,000 people, sparking anger over the poor quality of housing.

There are expected to be more detentions after the public prosecutor in Diyarbakir, one of 10 southeastern provinces affected by the quake, issued arrest warrants for 29 people on Saturday.

One of those detained on Saturday was a contractor for a building in Gaziantep, the agency said, adding he was found by police in Istanbul.

There have been a wave of investigations launched by prosecutors in provinces impacted.

Turkey's Justice Ministry has ordered prosecutors in the 10 provinces to establish special "earthquake crimes investigation offices".

On Friday, the Turkish police apprehended a contractor of a block of high-rise luxury flats that toppled over in Hatay province. He was detained at Istanbul airport after reportedly trying to flee the country.

Bangladesh withdraws school books after backlash

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

Bangladesh said on Saturday it had withdrawn two new school textbooks after protests from Islamist groups incensed by a curriculum overhaul to recognise transgender identities, same-sex relationships and secular science.

Thousands have demonstrated in the capital Dhaka since last month demanding that the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) scrap the changes to the books, published for students aged 11 to 13.

Transgender content

One section of the new history and social science book narrates the story of a child called Sharif who transitions, takes the female name Sharifa and goes to live with other transgender people.

The state-run NCTB said it took the decision to withdraw the books "due to some criticisms and to reduce reading load on students".

"There are debates over the contents of the books. So we decided to take them out for now so that no one can politicise the issue," a spokesman said.

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Scientists report finding a third natural source of quasicrystals

Vasudevan Mukunth

Scientists have reported finding only the third natural source of quasicrystals, a material once deemed impossible and whose unusual properties scientists are still unravelling.

In a crystal, the atoms are arranged in a pattern that periodically repeats itself. A quasicrystal's atoms are arranged in a pattern that repeats itself at irregular intervals.

Quasicrystals were discovered in the lab in 1982. In the late 1990s, scientists began looking for quasicrystals in nature. After a decade-long quest, Luca Bindi, Paul Steinhardt, and others reported finding the first natural quasicrystal in 2009 – as microscopic grains in a piece of the Khatyrka meteorite in the Koryak mountains of Russia.

This meteorite was involved in several collisions in space over millions of years, heating and pressurising it to a great degree and creating the quasicrystals. The discovery inspired a series of experiments in which physicists used 'shock synthesis' to create new varieties of quasicrystals in the lab.

In 2021, Dr. Bindi, Dr. Steinhardt, and others reported finding a quasicrystal in the remains of the first nuclear weapon test, conducted on July 16, 1945, in New Mexico. They wrote that the material "was found in a sample of red trinitite, a combination of glass fused from natural sand and anthropogenic copper from transmission lines used during the test."

Recently, in a study published in *PNAS* in December 2022, Dr. Bindi, Dr. Steinhardt, and others reported that in the wind-blown dunes of northern Nebraska, they had uncovered a metallic fragment in a long, tube-shaped mass of sand heated and fused by a heavy electric current. They also noticed a power line nearby had fallen to the ground. That's where the metal could have come from, but they couldn't tell where the current had originated: in the power line or as a lightning strike on a stormy night.

Whatever the source, it had melted the quartz at the site and formed a silicate glass – a process that needs to happen at at least 1,700° C. The metallic portion was a mass of aluminium, chromium, manganese, nickel, and silicon.

When Bindi et al. placed it under a powerful electron microscope, they spotted a dodecagonal quasicrystal, rare even for quasicrystals.

Mammalian spread of H5N1 and its pandemic potential

Monitoring the evolution of the shapeshifting H5N1 virus can add to the preparedness against another potential pandemic; disease and genomic surveillance is also imperative to keep track of the outbreak

Bani Jolly
Vinod Scaria

Avian influenza, or bird flu, is a highly contagious viral infection that primarily affects birds. Infrequently, the virus can infect mammals from birds, a phenomenon called spillover, and rarely can spread between mammals. There are several different subtypes of avian influenza viruses, ranging from low pathogenic to highly pathogenic types. H5N1 is a highly pathogenic subtype of avian influenza that causes severe disease and death in birds. This subtype has caused a number of human infections through close contact with infected birds or contaminated environments, and is often fatal. Recent reports of H5N1 spread between mammals raise concerns about its potential to cause a human pandemic if it were to spill over and become transmissible among humans.

New H5N1 variant turns lethal in mammals
Increased H5N1 spread in mammals highlights the need for heightened vigilance due to inherent possibility of the virus jumping to humans
A new bird flu (H5N1) strain — 2.3.4.4b — emerged in 2020 and spread rapidly across Asia, Africa and Europe. It subsequently spread to North and South America by 2021 and 2022, respectively
The new H5N1 variant has been found in seals, sea lions, dolphin, lion, otters, and foxes
The H5N1 genome sequence shows several mutations compared with those from birds. The T271A mutation is known to enhance replication in mammals
Confirmed intra-mammal transmission of the new H5N1 variant was seen in 2022 in minks at a farm in Spain
Over half-a-dozen infections and one death in humans from the current global outbreak have been reported
H5N1 can cause severe illness and death in humans. The rapid spread of the variant among birds and other mammals raises public health concerns
If the variant evolves to spread between mammals, it could potentially make another evolutionary jump to become transmissible in humans
Over 700 dead seals were found along Russia's Caspian Sea coast where the H5N1 variant was earlier detected in wild birds

Cause for concern

The H5N1 subtype has the potential to spill over to other mammals such as minks, ferrets, seals and domestic cats when the animals come in contact with infected birds or their feces or consume carcasses of infected birds and further serve as reservoirs. It is also possible that over time, the virus could evolve to adapt to new hosts, leading to further outbreaks.

Recently, scientists have been investigating a potential mammalian spillover event after a mass mortality event which killed over 700 seals along Russia's Caspian Sea coast where a H5N1 variant was detected in wild birds a few months ago. In February 2023, Peru reported cases of H5N1 in sea lions and a dolphin, and a lion dying from H5N1 in a zoo. The U.K. has also reported deaths of otters and foxes due to infection by H5N1 subtype. In the past, seals and other mammals, such as foxes, minks, ferrets and domestic cats, have been reported to be infected by H5N1 through contact with birds. Wildlife, including foxes, coyotes and raccoons, often scavenge on infected birds or consume infected bird carcasses. However, the only recorded incidents of intra-mammal transmission of the virus have been among mink in captivity at a farm in Spain, in 2022.

If the H5N1 variant of avian flu has evolved to be transmitted between mammals, there is a rare possibility of another evolutionary jump resulting in human transmission and outbreaks.

The H5N1 avian influenza virus was first detected in 1996 on a goose farm in China. Subsequently, a major outbreak was reported in 1997 among poultry in Hong Kong, also leading to human infections of H5N1, which left 6 people dead and 18 infected. In 2004, H5N1 was reported in several countries in Asia, and further a global outbreak which continues to date. In 2013 and 2014, many countries in Europe and Asia reported H5N1 in poultry. Over the years the virus has caused outbreaks across the world, predominantly spread by migratory birds. Till date, over 800 cases of human H5N1 infections have also been reported, with a high fatality of 53%.

A new strain of H5N1, named 2.3.4.4b, emerged in 2020 and rapidly spread across Asia, Africa and Europe and subsequently to North and South America by 2021 and 2022, respectively. Many mammals were also infected in these outbreaks, including human infections. H5N1 sequenced from the mink farm in Spain also show several mutations, including (T271A) that enhances viral replication in mammalian tissues. The impact of this mutation in helping the virus spread to and among humans, therefore, remains unknown. Influenza H5N1 can rarely infect humans through direct contact with animals, but often causes severe disease and death.

In addition, the widespread H5N1 outbreaks have substantial economic impact, resulting from significant losses to the poultry industry and threatening food and vaccine security (eggs are used for vaccine production), apart from raising animal welfare.

What can be done?

Preventing H5N1 spillovers and outbreaks requires a combination of measures including vaccination of poultry, safe disposal of dead birds, quarantine and culling of affected animals, wearing personal protective equipment when handling birds, and improved surveillance and monitoring of H5N1 in birds and other animals.

Human vaccines against H5N1 avian influenza have been designed to protect against the most severe forms of the disease. However, the highly mutable nature of the H5N1 virus could potentially decrease vaccine efficacy over time. Therefore, molecular surveillance of H5N1 and its subtypes is essential in understanding and responding to outbreaks. Genome sequencing can be employed to monitor the emergence of new subtypes, and keep a close watch on mutations and virulence factors that may increase the ability to infect humans.

In summary, although the risk of H5N1 to infect and spread among humans has been evaluated as low, disease and genomic surveillance as an integrated approach to controlling avian influenza are needed to keep a close watch on the outbreak. As we learned from the COVID-19 outbreak, monitoring the evolution of the virus can add to the preparedness against a potential pandemic.

(Bani Jolly and Vinod Scaria are researchers at the CSIR Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB))

Millets for a healthier future

SPEAKING OF SCIENCE
D. Balasubramanian

Anna Gibbs, who was an intern at Science News, writes in the May 9, 2022 issue that "no matter how you slice it, climate change will alter what we eat in the future". Half of all calories consumed by humans come from maize, rice and wheat. We depend on 13 crops for 80% of our nutritional needs. Their inventories will dwindle as climate change leads to erratic rainfall and weather extremes. There is a need for growing hardier species to help secure our needs, which is why millets are gaining significance.

Millets are grown in warm regions with poor soil and yield large crops of small seeds which are used to make flour. Some examples of millets are pearl millet or bajra, sorghum or jowar, finger millet or ragi. The minor millets are foxtail millet or *thenai*, little millet or *samai*, and barnyard millet or *sanwa*, which is used in bread and biscuits.

Millets have been staple foods for people in Asia and Africa for over 10,000 years. They are climate-resilient, need little water and grow well in warmer, drier environments. India produces around 12 million metric tonnes of millets annually, according to Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare data. India happens to be the number one in the world in producing millets, followed by China and Niger (HelgiLibrary).

The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO/UNO) has declared the year 2023 as the international year of millets. In keeping with this, India's Agriculture Ministry has lined up a series of millet-centric plans and activities on the use of millets, particularly in Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar. It also plans "eat right melas" in Punjab, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Indeed, the Chennai-based M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) has been very active in promoting the production and consumption of millets.

Production: India produces around 12 million metric tonnes of millets annually. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Nutritional value

While most of us eat wheat and rice as staple foods, they do not have the nutritive value of millets. Hence, they are not what are called 'nutri-cereals'. Millets have significant amounts of proteins, dietary fibre, vitamin B, and several metal ions which staple foods such as rice lack. It is thus important that millets are added to our daily food for their benefits.

Professor Madhura Swaminathan, of the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI Bangalore) and the Chairperson of the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation in her article in *The Hindu* of January 31, 2023, gives a brief outline of the economics of the issue. She points out that even if about 20% of rice and wheat were to be replaced by millets in the public distribution system (PDS), it would greatly benefit the health of schoolchildren in their midday meals. Increasing the production of millets and reversing the decline in area cultivated are feasible measures. But they may not be easy to implement, and require multistep interventions. The Government of India, and the States of Karnataka and Odisha have initiated millet missions, which are welcome steps.

SNAPSHOTS

Drought may have led to the collapse of the Hittite Empire

A major drought that occurred in central Anatolia between around 1198 BC and 1196 BC may have had a key role in the collapse of the Hittite Empire (*Nature*). The findings suggest that extreme climate change can push populations beyond their limits. Researchers created a high-resolution dryness record using stable isotope records and measurements from tree rings of juniper trees in central Anatolia. They identified an unusually severe dry period around 1198 BC and 1196 BC causing severe drought.

Extensive wetland losses of 21% between 1700 and 2020

The world lost about 20% of its natural wetlands between 1700 and 2020, says a new study (*Nature*). Researchers reconstructed the timing and spatial distribution of wetland loss due to human intervention by combining 3,320 international and regional records of wetland drainage and land conversion from 154 countries. They estimate that 3.4 million square km of inland wetlands have been lost since 1700 – a net loss of 21% of global wetlands.

Some fish recognise their own faces in photos and mirrors

The bluestreak cleaner wrasse (*Labroides dimidiatus*) seems to recognize its own face – an indication of self-awareness that has so far been found only in humans and a few other species such as great apes, dolphins and elephants. Each fish was shown composite images: its own head photoshopped onto another fish's body, and its own body with another fish's head. The fish were less aggressive towards their own faces, even on another fish's body, suggesting that this fish forms a mental image of its countenance.

Question Corner

Birds and wings

How did ancestors of modern birds use wings?

Researchers at Nagoya University in Japan have developed an index to estimate how a bird uses its wings for flight or other locomotion by measuring the strength of the coracoid bone and the animal's body mass. The presence of a wing alone does not tell us whether an animal can fly. For example, penguins evolved wings to propel them through water whereas feathered dinosaurs may have used their wings for other purposes, such as thermoregulation and intraspecific display. Therefore, to better understand how animals evolved the ability to fly, an index must take into account both the presence of wings and the ability to perform powerful wing-beats, says a release. The strength of the coracoid in relation to body mass may reflect the force exerted by the flight muscles, which counteract the lifting force on the wings. This helps to estimate how a bird uses propulsion. Soaring birds had increased coracoid strength, while non-flapping birds had lower coracoid strength (*Journal of Anatomy*).

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

What made MSCI act on Adani stocks?

Which are the 4 companies on the list whose free float designations have been lowered by the global index provider?

Prashanth Perumal

The story so far:

Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI), a global index provider for financial markets, announced on Friday that it will reduce the free float designations for four Adani Group companies in multiple indices. These companies had a combined 0.4% weighting in the MSCI Emerging Markets Index as of January 30. The decision follows MSCI's decision to review the free float status of companies belonging to the Adani Group following investor concerns. Apart from Adani Enterprises, the MSCI will cut the free floats assigned to Adani Total Gas, Adani Transmission, and ACC. These changes will come into effect from March 1.

What is free float?

Free float refers to the proportion of the total outstanding shares of a publicly listed company that is readily available for trading in the market. Generally speaking, shares held by promoters and large institutional investors are normally not freely traded in the market. The free float of a company can sometimes give investors a rough idea about the likely liquidity of the company's shares in the public market. It should be noted that the weightage given to a company's stock in certain indices is based on the company's market capitalisation.

The free float cuts and resultant reduction in weightage of the Adani stocks in the Emerging Markets Index are likely to pare India's weightage in the index by 20-30 bps

A company's market capitalisation is calculated based on the free float of the company and also the market price of the company's stock. So, a drop in the number of freely floating shares of a company can cause a drop in its market capitalisation and reduce its weightage in indices.

What led to the MSCI's decision?

The decision to reduce the free float assigned to the Adani stocks comes in the wake of a report released last month by Hindenburg Research, a U.S.-based investment research firm and short seller. Hindenburg had alleged that more than 75% of the outstanding shares of various companies of the Adani Group were owned by their promoters. Indian market regulations stipulate that non-promoter public shareholders should own at least 25% of the total outstanding shares of a company. This rule hopes to prevent manipulation of stock prices by promoters who could influence the price of the stock by trading among themselves when they hold an outsized portion of the outstanding shares. In particular, Hindenburg alleged that the Adani Group used offshore shell entities to hide holdings by members of Chairman Gautam Adani's family. If true, this would reduce the float or the proportion of outstanding shares readily available for trade in the market.

The MSCI first stated that the "characteristics of certain investors" in the Adani Group suggested that they should not be considered part of the company's free float. Nathan Anderson, the founder of Hindenburg Research, had in a tweet noted that MSCI's decision to review the free float status of the Adani Group companies validated his firm's findings against the conglomerate.

MSCI's decision to cut the weights assigned to the Adani stocks in its indices going forward, however, may not be solely due to concerns over the free float of these stocks. Shares of the Adani Group's companies have fallen steeply over the last few weeks, thus affecting the market cap of these companies. In fact, the Adani Group has lost about $110 billion of its market cap since the release of the Hindenburg report last month. Since many indices are constructed based on the size of the market cap of securities, the crash in the Adani stocks has also likely affected the weightage of these stocks in the MSCI index.

What will be the impact?

MSCI's decision will adversely affect the amount of capital flowing into the Adani stocks. Many passive investors invest in the indices that are constructed by bodies such as the MSCI. So, a cut in the weightage of the four Adani stocks in the Emerging Markets Index, which stood at 0.4% as of January 30, will likely reduce the amount of money flowing into these stocks. In fact, Goldman Sachs believes that India's weight in the MSCI's emerging markets index itself could drop by 20-30 basis points following the resultant reduction in weight of Adani stocks.

Being part of an international index allows companies to readily avail capital from foreign investors. Even the Indian government has tried to get its bonds listed on the global indices. Due to MSCI's decision, some estimates by analysts say that there could be an outflow of about $500 million from Adani stocks. All this can adversely affect the group's efforts to raise capital from investors, whether it is in the form of equity or debt offerings. Notably, on Friday, Moody's downgraded its credit rating outlook on four Adani issuer entities from 'stable' to 'negative'.

Why were the Turkey earthquakes so deadly?

Is a rupture between multiple tectonic plates responsible for the widespread devastation? What is a strike-slip fault? What can quake-prone regions learn from Chile and Japan? Has India ever experienced an earthquake of such magnitude?

Jacob Koshy

The story so far:

Two large earthquakes, one of magnitude 7.8 and closely followed by a magnitude 7.5, hit south-eastern Turkey, claiming at least 17,000 lives and counting, wreaking considerable damage in Turkey as well as Syria. Nearly 200 aftershocks have followed with earthquakes of magnitude 6 being reported in the region three days after the first tremblor.

What causes earthquakes?

The earth's crust is made up of roughly 15 massive segmented chunky slabs called tectonic plates which are constantly in motion. The land on which buildings are built rests on these plates. The plates continually collide, push and grate against each other and the meeting points of these plates are made up of a series of 'faults.'

In the Turkey-Syria earthquakes, energy from nearly 300 years of accumulated strain was released, says a seismologist

The pent up energy from the nestling plates, along faultlines, is often released when an imbalance in pressure causes rocks on either side of the fault to re-adjust.

One set of rocks rising up relative to the other is a 'normal' fault, one sliding down relative to the other is a 'reverse' fault.

When they grate, or move past one another, it's a 'strike-slip.'

The energy released travels as waves that cause the ground to shake.

A 'slip' at the faultlines

The earth's crust is made up of roughly 15 tectonic plates which are constantly in motion. The meeting points of these plates are made up of a series of 'faults.' The pent up energy from the nestling plates, along the faultlines, is often released when there is an imbalance in pressure. This energy which travels as waves causes the ground to shake

Utter devastation: The search for survivors in a collapsed building after the earthquake in Kahramanmaras, Turkey on February 11. REUTERS

Sources: USGS, The Geological Society of London, Reuters © GRAPHIC NEWS

Where was the earthquake felt?

Turkey and Syria lie at the confluence of three plates – the Arabian Plate, the Anatolian Plate and the Eurasian Plate, making the region an extremely seismically active zone. The Arabian Plate is inching north into Europe, causing the Anatolian Plate (which Turkey sits on) to be pushed out west. The bulk of Turkey sits on the Anatolian Plate between two major faults: the North Anatolian Fault and the East Anatolian Fault.

Geologists say that the earthquakes were from a 'strike-slip' which is typical of the earthquakes in the region.

Why were these earthquakes so devastating and deadly?

As this region hosts many fault systems, there are many earthquakes being recorded in the region. Only those that result in a release of energy above a certain threshold are captured by seismological instruments. At magnitude 7.8, the February 6 event is much bigger than the ones the area has experienced before. The fault system runs along nearly 190 km which is why the impact of the earthquakes was so far-ranging.

The second earthquake, of 7.5 magnitude, occurred further to the north on a different but adjacent fault system called the Sürgü Fault. The magnitudes of these earthquakes suggest that there will be several aftershocks that can be registered in a wide radius and reports of shakes from as far away as Cairo (950 km) and Istanbul (815 km) away have been reported.

Are there similarities to earthquakes in India? Can energy from latent pressure be built up over the years?

The Indian Plate, colliding into the Eurasian plate and tilting upwards, created the Himalayas. The most common type of earthquake in the Himalayan region is due to reverse faults because of the compressive forces between the two plates, says Suvrat Kher, a Pune-based geologist. "However, whether it's strike-slip or a thrust, the waves generated can be as powerful." Scientists have longed warned of a massive, overdue earthquake in the Garhwal-Kumaon range here because of what is known about the pattern of quakes in the region.

Based on the amount of 'slip' (or movement) that is observed in an earthquake and measurements of the amount of 'strain' that accumulates every year, scientists can deduce the latent pressure that's building up along a fault has been released. "We don't have very accurate records that date back, say a thousand years, on 7+ magnitude earthquakes. The records of the last 300 or so years suggest that those that have occurred haven't released all the pent-up energy and that's why we think a major one – maybe even an 8 magnitude one – is overdue. However predicting the day it will occur is beyond our ken now," said V.K. Gahlaut, seismologist and professor at the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad.

In the Turkey-Syria earthquakes, energy from nearly 300 years of accumulated strain was released, he added.

How much does the magnitude of earthquakes correlate to the damage they inflict?

It is only broadly true that the magnitude of earthquakes corresponds to death and devastation. Chile, a country with a long history of devastating earthquakes (over 9), is considered to be a model for earthquake preparedness.

Despite experiencing earthquakes with magnitudes over 8 in 2014 and 2015 casualties are extremely minimal due to years of strictly enforcing building codes. This despite being a much poorer country than Japan, also known for its experience in earthquake-proofing structures.

The 9-magnitude earthquake that caused a tsunami and a radiation leak in the nuclear power plant in the country's Fukushima prefecture in 2011, didn't damage the stability of the structure, said Mr. Gahlaut. "Just as the energy released exponentially rises in a single step of the scale (Moment Magnitude), the cost of earthquake-proofing too rises exponentially. On the other hand, if structures are built on a fault line, then no amount of engineering can save them."

A lack of enforcement of building codes in Turkey and the timing of the earthquake in the early morning are believed to be major factors for the death and devastation inflicted. "It's a bit like India where we have lots of rules (on building codes) but there is limited enforcement. The 1993 Latur earthquake for instance was a little over 6 magnitude but caused enormous damage because building codes are not enforceable there," said Mr. Kher.

How is govt. ramping up border infrastructure?

What is India building in Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh and other places in the north and east? Besides roads, what other connectivity is India looking at? Why are projects being executed in countries such as Myanmar, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka?

Suhasini Haidar

The story so far:

At an unscheduled briefing during Parliament session this week, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar released details of the government's projects on border infrastructure and connectivity. It focused on initiatives in the north and east along India's 3,488 km border with China (Line of Actual Control or LAC), including ramping up infrastructure on the Indian side in Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh, as well as projects connecting India to "friendly" neighbouring states such as Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Myanmar.

What was the purpose of the briefing?

Speaking to journalists, Mr. Jaishankar said the Modi government has "focused on rapid development of infrastructure along Northern Borders with China for obvious strategic reasons". This was a reference to successive skirmishes with the Chinese People's Liberation Army in Chumar in 2014, Doklam in 2017 and the ongoing standoff along the entire LAC since April 2020 when the Chinese army amassed troops along the border, which resulted in the Galwan clashes, the first such violent incident in 45 years. "Behind the debate that we often witness on the India-China border, including that of questions asked by the Opposition, one needs to look at what goes into our border preparedness. It's the quality of our structures, the technology involved and its maintenance," he added, indicating that the purpose of the briefing was to counter the Opposition's questions on the India-China situation during the parliamentary session.

The report lists dozens of projects in nearby countries that have been planned, financed or constructed

Snow roads: The south portal of the Atal Tunnel in Rohtang on January 14. PTI

What initiatives did the briefing outline?

An official document released, highlighted a multi-pronged approach – improving connectivity to the LAC through roads, bridges and tunnels, improving cross-border connectivity to neighbouring countries via highways, bridges, inland waterways, railroads, electricity lines and fuel pipelines, modernising and constructing integrated check posts (ICPs) at all the border crossings to smooth trade, and funding and constructing infrastructure projects in neighbouring countries.

While many of these projects have commenced or been in the pipeline for several decades, the government claimed that it has accelerated them and completed execution. For example, the government said that the length of roads constructed in the China border areas in the period from 2014 to 2022 (6,806 km) "is almost double the length" constructed from 2008-2014 (3,610 km), and cited a similar case for bridges built.

What about neighbourhood projects?

The report lists dozens of projects in the neighbourhood that have been planned, financed or constructed – some involve major outlays like the railway links to Nepal and Bangladesh, the Mahakali motorable bridge and the Maitri Setu between Tripura and Bangladesh, the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP) which includes a 158 km waterway, the Sittwe port project and road to Mizoram. It also speaks of "South Asia's first cross-border petroleum products pipeline" between Motihari in India and Amlekhgunj in Nepal, another High Speed Diesel pipeline with Bangladesh that will reduce petrol prices and road congestion, and a Bhutanese dry port in Pasakha bordering West Bengal being developed under an Indian government grant.

Is there a significance to the timing of the report?

The report was released in the wake of an official Security Conference report that said Indian forces have lost access to 26 of 65 patrolling points along the LAC since 2020. According to the analysis, that *The Hindu* had first reported in December 2022, some of the points have been encroached upon by PLA troops and infrastructure, while at some, patrolling has been suspended by mutual agreement in talks with Chinese border commanders to avoid conflict and "to play safe". Former Minister and Congress MP Manish Tewari has given notice for an adjournment motion everyday of the current session to bring attention to what he calls "land grab" by Chinese forces. The government may have also sought to allay concerns in neighbouring countries in the light of the recent drop in share value and credit ratings of the Adani Group that has been highlighted internationally. The Adani Group has been involved closely with the Modi government's foreign policy forays, especially in the neighbourhood, and is in talks for a number of projects, including electricity with Bangladesh and Nepal, ports in Myanmar and Sri Lanka, as well as renewable energy projects in the region, particularly as the government has been concerned about Chinese infrastructure outlays in the neighbourhood. Officials in neighbouring countries will watch closely to see if financing for those projects is impacted by the Adani controversy.

The timing is particularly significant as it comes a few weeks before the visit of Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang to Delhi for the G-20 Foreign Minister's Meeting on March 1-2. Mr. Qin is due to return in early May for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Foreign Ministers meeting in Goa, and Chinese President Xi Jinping is being invited to India twice, for the SCO summit expected in June and the G-20 summit in September.

The tycoon who raised an army

Yevgeny Prigozhin

The former Kremlin contractor and the head of the Wagner private military group has emerged as one of the key players of Russia's war in Ukraine

Stanly Johny

On September 14, 2022, a few days after Russian troops were forced to withdraw from Kharkiv by a Ukrainian counter-offensive, a video of a man talking to inmates at a Russian prison emerged on the Internet. "I am a representative of a private military company. You have probably heard of it. It's called PMC Wagner," said the tall man with a shaved head to a group of prisoners and guards who were standing around him in a semicircle. The video, shot with a low-quality mobile camera, was published by the team of Alexei Navalny, a jailed opposition leader. The man in the video was Yevgeny Prigozhin, a Russian tycoon with close ties with the Kremlin. His mission: recruit prisoners for Wagner to fight in Ukraine.

In the past, Mr. Prigozhin had always denied any links with the group. Not any longer. In the video, he said that if the inmates, aged between 22 and 50, agreed to join Wagner, he would give them freedom after six months of service or a hero's burial if they died in combat. "Do you have anyone who can take you out of prison?," he asked the prisoners. "There are two others who can – Allah and God – but they only take you out in a wooden box. I can take you out of here alive."

Russian law doesn't allow prisoners to be released in exchange for military service. The Federal Penitentiary Service, the federal authority of prisons and detention facilities, is a powerful agency of the Ministry of Justice. But the doors of government bureaucracy hardly shut before Mr. Prigozhin. Since the video went viral, Wagner's involvement in Russia's war in Ukraine only intensified. In January when the Russians took Soledar, a salt mine city in the outskirts of Bakhmut in Donetsk, their first major victory in months, it was Wagner that announced the breakthrough first. In Bakhmut, which has seen deadly fighting for seven months, Wagner is leading the offensive. Mr. Prigozhin now has powerful allies such as Ramzan Kadyrov of Chechnya. If he had kept a low profile in the past, now he's stepped out of the shadows.

Born in 1961 in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg), the former Tsarist capital, Mr. Prigozhin grew up in Khrushchev's Soviet Union. At a young age, he was arrested for robbery. According to court papers released by Russian media outlet *Meduza*, Mr. Prigozhin and his accomplices attacked a woman in March 1980 in St. Petersburg, took her gold earrings and left her lying on the street unconscious. There were other reported similar incidents. He was convicted and jailed in 1981 in Brezhnev's Soviet Union. When he was released in 1990, the Soviet Union, under the leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev, was already on its deathbed.

Mr. Prigozhin started a new life, like the post-Soviet Russia, selling hotdogs in St. Petersburg. The subsequent years would see Mr. Prigozhin steadily expanding his business to supermarkets and restaurants. By the mid 1990s, he opened Old Customs House (Staraya Tamozhnya), on Vasilevsky Island of St. Petersburg. It would soon become one of the finest and most sought-after dining locations in the city. Influential people, including celebrities, billionaires and politicians, used to visit the restaurant. One of them was Anatoly Sobchak, the Mayor of St. Petersburg. Sometimes, Sobchak's young deputy would accompany him to the diner – a former KGB operative, who just started building a political career, called Vladimir V. Putin.

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

Putin's chef

The relationship between Mr. Putin and Mr. Prigozhin, probably established in one of those meetings, would flourish in the following years. By late 1990s, Mr. Putin would become President Boris Yeltsin's Prime Minister, and then his successor. Mr. Prigozhin would go on winning lucrative government catering contracts. His business started booming, so did his influence. As a measure of his growing clout, he was occasionally seen with President Putin and global leaders. He accompanied Mr. Putin when he visited the U.K. in 2003 and appeared in a photograph with Mr. Putin and Prince Charles (now the King of the U.K.). When Mr. Putin hosted George W. Bush in 2006 as part of the G8 Summit, Mr. Prigozhin can be seen serving the U.S. leader. In a 2015 photograph released by the Kremlin, Mr. Prigozhin can be seen serving food to Mr. Putin, then Brazil President Dilma Rouseff and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This closeness to Mr. Putin and his ever-expanding catering business earned him the nickname, "Putin's chef".

Mr. Prigozhin's transformation from an influential Kremlin contractor to a vital player in Russia's security complex began in 2014, the year Russia annexed Crimea. Wagner was founded in the same year, by Dmitry Utkin, a former Lieutenant Colonel in Russia's military intelligence service, the GRU. Mr. Prigozhin emerged as the main financier of the group. According to one account, he approached the Defence Ministry in 2014, seeking land to train "volunteers". Ministry officials were not happy with his demand. Then he told them, "The orders came from Papa," referring to Mr. Putin.

He got what he wanted and Wagner would train thousands of private soldiers, who would be deployed to Crimea and eastern Ukraine. Within a few years, Wagner became an all-powerful mercenary entity. When Russia adopted a more aggressive foreign policy, expanding its strategic footprint in West Asia and Africa, Wagner came handy for the Kremlin – it can send troops to these regions with plausible deniability. Wagner soldiers fought alongside Syrian troops and Hezbollah and other Shia paramilitaries against the regime's rivals. They were also sent to Mali, Libya, Mozambique and the Central African Republic. When Wagner became an integral part of the Kremlin's foreign security outreach, Mr. Prigozhin's stock rose in Moscow's fortified elite power circles.

Formidable rival

Mr. Putin's critics see Mr. Prigozhin as one of their formidable rivals. According to Leonid Volkov, a close aide of Navalny, Mr. Prigozhin is "the most dangerous criminal in Putin's entourage". A *Belling Cat* investigation in August 2020 claimed that Mr. Prigozhin's business ventures – government contracts, Wagner and troll farms – are closely linked to the Kremlin. Robert Muller, the Special Counsel who probed alleged Russian intervention in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, indicted Russia-based Internet Research Agency, which was linked to Mr. Prigozhin, for running an online campaign to discredit Hillary Clinton's candidacy. He is also wanted by the FBI for "conspiracy to defraud the United States".

Yet, many see that the war has turned him into one of the most important players in Russia. Mikhail Zygar, an independent Russian journalist, recently wrote that Mr. Prigozhin has already surpassed several traditional power centres in Moscow. When Russian troops performed poorly in the war, Mr. Prigozhin, along with Ramzan Kadyrov, the Chechen leader, publicly slammed the defence establishment. Mr. Putin changed the commander of his "special military operation" twice, but Mr. Prigozhin remains untouched.

He found recruits in prisons, his mercenaries are fighting in the "meat grinders" of the frontline, and he is issuing regular updates on the war, like a commander, through Telegram channels. From being a hotdog seller in St. Petersburg, Mr. Prigozhin has come a long way. But his rapid rise has also earned him powerful rivals. Some see Mr. Putin's recent decision to appoint Chief of the General Staff Valery Gerasimov as the Ukraine commander as an attempt to re-assert the primacy of the Ministry of Defence in an internal power struggle. But in this hour of war, Mr. Putin also needs Wagner. And Mr. Prigozhin knows that as long as he has the backing of the man in Kremlin, lateral power centres can't touch him.

THE GIST

- Yevgeny Prigozhin, a former convict, started his business journey by selling hotdogs in St. Petersburg in the early 1990s and then opening a restaurant in the city
- In the early 2000s, he won lucrative government catering contracts after Vladimir Putin became President
- Prigozhin's transformation from an influential Kremlin contractor to a vital player in Russia's security complex as the main financier of the Wagner group began in 2014, the year Russia annexed Crimea

From the Bar to the Bench

Victoria Gowri

The lawyer's oath-taking as a Madras High Court judge was marred by a simultaneous hearing in the Supreme Court over her alleged hate speeches against minorities

Mohamed Imranullah S.

"I, Lekshmana Chandra Victoria Gowri having been appointed as additional judge of the High Court of Madras do swear in the name of God that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India," swore the advocate on Tuesday morning even as the Supreme Court was simultaneously hearing a case filed by a group of lawyers against her appointment.

Her elevation from the Bar to the Bench happened amidst great amount of anxiety and suspense.

The lawyers' group from Chennai filed the case on the ground that Justice Gowri had delivered "hate speeches" against religious minorities and therefore she was not a suitable candidate for judgeship. The Supreme Court, nevertheless, did not find any reason to entertain their case and refused to interfere with her appointment.

Justice Gowri was born to R. Lekshmana Chandra and Sarojini Chandra on May 21, 1973. Her father retired as an English lecturer from the Government Arts College in Karur. She pursued her four-year B.A.B.L. degree at the Government Law College in Madurai between 1991-95 before commencing practice at courts in Karur district. In 1996, she shifted her practice to courts in Kanniyakumari district. From 2008, she began to conduct cases before the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court too. Her field of specialisation was civil and writ jurisdiction.

ILLUSTRATION: J.A. PREMKUMAR

BJP links

She was associated with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) from 2006 to 2020 and had served as its Kanniyakumari district vice-president between 2006 and 2009. She had been the national general secretary of the party's Mahila Morcha (women's wing) from 2012 to 2020.

On the professional front, she was appointed a central government standing counsel for the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court in 2015 and continued in that position till September 2020, when she became the Assistant Solicitor General.

During her tenure as the ASG, Justice Gowri also served as a Special Public Prosecutor (in-charge) for the Central Bureau of Investigation. Last year, the Madras High Court collegium proposed her name for elevation.

The Supreme Court collegium, comprising Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Justice K.M. Joseph, accepted the proposal on January 17 and recommended her appointment as an additional judge for a period of two years on the basis of consultations with SC judges who had served in the Madras High Court.

However, on February 1, a group of 21 lawyers, including N.G.R. Prasad, R. Vaigai and V. Suresh of the People's Union for Civil Liberties, wrote to President Droupadi Murmu, expressing surprise over the development despite her "hate speeches" being available on the social media.

The lawyers urged the President to return the recommendation. They also wrote to the Supreme Court collegium requesting it to withdraw the recommendation. On the other hand, a much larger group of 98 lawyers from the Madurai Bench of the High Court came in support of her elevation.

Moving SC

Even as the controversy was raging, the Centre moved ahead with the appointment process and hence, Ms. Vaigai and a few other advocates moved the Supreme Court on February 6. On the same day, the Union Ministry of Law and Justice notified her appointment.

After receiving the government notification as well as the Presidential warrant of her appointment, the Madras High Court administration decided to conduct the oath taking ceremony on February 7. The Supreme Court began hearing the case at around 10:20 a.m. while the oath taking ceremony commenced at the Madras High Court at 10:40 a.m. After the customary reading out of the notification and Presidential warrant, the Acting Chief Justice began administering the oath to her at 10:46 a.m. A few minutes later, the apex court dismissed the case challenging her appointment on merits.

An enigmatic ChatGPT rival

Google Bard

The search engine's AI-powered service that was purported to be an outlet for creativity and a launchpad for curiosity has failed to enthuse investors and users

John Xavier

In the fall of 2021, Blake Lemoine, a senior software engineer at Google, was assigned to help the company on a particular AI ethics effort. While working on it, he stumbled upon a tangentially related but separate AI issue. He flagged it to his manager and suggested him to escalate it to the leadership. But his claim was dismissed citing limited evidence.

Mr. Lemoine, turned to Margaret Mitchell, a former co-lead of Ethical AI at Google, for help. With Ms. Mitchell's support, he gathered evidence and presented it to the leadership. After that, things got rocky for him. In a June 7, 2022 blog titled, 'May be Fired Soon for Doing AI Ethics Work', he noted that Google had placed him on "administrative paid leave" in connection with the AI concerns he raised. Two weeks later, the search giant fired Mr. Lemoine for violating the company's data security policies.

The concerns that had cost Mr. Lemoine his job were centred around the Language Model for Dialogue Applications (LaMDA). Based on his interaction with LaMDA, he claimed the large language model (LLM) to be sentient. Mr. Lemoine was not the only Google AI researcher who raised questions about LaMDA. Other engineers who raised concerns about different aspects of Google AI also lost their jobs. And Google went ahead building its BARD AI service on this language model.

Neural network

LaMDA, like BERT and GPT-3, is an LLM built on Transformer, a neural network architecture developed by Google and open-sourced in 2017. But Google's LaMDA was different from the rest of the LLMs available at that time. It was trained on dialogues as input. That made it notice nuances and distinguish open-ended conversations from other forms of language.

Google's Bard, launched to compete against OpenAI's ChatGPT, is anything but poetic. In the launch blog, CEO Sundar Pichai did not describe the bot for its poetic or programmer-writing skills. Instead, Mr. Pichai claimed Bard to be an outlet for creativity, and a launchpad for curiosity, "helping you to explain new discoveries from NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) to a 9-year-old." To show what Bard can do, he attached a GIF video in the same blog that had three suggested answers to the JWST question.

But the GIF video had an inaccurate information. In one of its responses, Bard suggested that JWST was used to take the very first pictures of an exoplanet. However, those were taken by the European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope (VLT) in 2004. NASA has confirmed this information.

This gaffe was reported by Reuters just before Google started to live-stream its presentation from Paris on Wednesday. To make things worse, Prabhakar Raghavan, a senior vice president at Google, incharge for Search, made an underwhelming presentation on what Bard can offer its users. He largely restated what was already known about the conversational AI service. His presentation also lacked any ground-breaking update that could intensify the competition between Bard and Microsoft-backed ChatGPT.

The incorrect answer on the promotional GIF and the underwhelming presentation in Paris had cost Google's parent dearly. Alphabet Inc.'s stock tumbled nearly 7% on Wednesday, wiping out $100 billion from its market value, while Microsoft's shares rose 3% on the same day. And just a day earlier, the Windows software maker announced it had released a version of Bing search with ChatGPT functionality.

At the heart of Bard's unpoetic rendition is the LaMDA. Google's own Ethical AI researchers have raised questions about it. But a part of that large language model carved out to provide a specific service has failed to enthuse investors and users. The answer to what is Bard's true capability is somewhere between these two vantage points. And until Google makes the LLM publicly accessible, LaMDA and its carve-out Bard will remain an enigma.

INBRIEF

City Union Bank reports Q3 net profit of ₹217.83 crore

Private sector City Union Bank has registered a net profit of ₹217.83 crore for the October-December 2022 quarter, the Tamil Nadu-based bank said on Saturday. Net profit for the quarter ending December 31, 2022 was at ₹196.11 crore in the corresponding period of last year. For the nine-month period ending December 31, 2022, the net profit of the bank surged to ₹719.43 crore from ₹551.20 crore registered in same period of previous year. PTI

Garment exports to Japan to increase by 20-25%: AEPC

Apparel exports to Japan are expected to grow 20-25% year-on-year, according to Chairman of the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) Naren Goenka. He said that Indian ready-made garments had duty-free access to Japan following the Indo-Japan CEPA, while garment exports from China and Turkey to Japan attracted about 9% duty. Mr. Goenka said the Union Government is coming up with a PLI scheme which would predominantly include ready-made garments.

NCLT okays joint bid of RIL, ACRE for Sintex resolution

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has approved the joint bid of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and Assets Care & Reconstruction Enterprise (ACRE) for the debt-ridden textiles maker Sintex Industries.

The Ahmedabad bench of the NCLT, in an oral order on Friday, approved the resolution plan by RIL and ACRE, Sintex Industries said in a regulatory filing. According to reports, RIL-ACRE had offered about ₹3,650 crore. PTI

Registry will help expedite credit flows: Das

The financial information registry will offer lenders a 360 degree perspective on potential borrowers, says RBI Governor; facility proposed in Budget will be backed by law, the draft Bill for which is likely to be finalised soon, he adds; 'RBI has to keep price stability in mind when taking rate decisions'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The national financial information registry announced in the Union Budget is aimed at expediting loan sanctions and credit flows by offering lenders a '360 degree' perspective on potential borrowers, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das said.

"A lot of information is required by a bank, before a loan is sanctioned. The idea is to create one registry where, to the extent possible ... the idea is to provide a 360 degree kind of information system which will be readily available to the lending institutions to ensure that it quickens the process of credit flow," Mr. Das said.

In concert: Governor Shaktikanta Das addresses the RBI Board in the presence of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. ANI

Speaking on Saturday after a meeting of the RBI board with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Mr. Das said the registry will be backed by law, the draft Bill for which is likely to be finalised soon.

On successive interest rate increases denting demand for rate-sensitive consumption like homes, Mr. Das stressed that real interest rates (after factoring in inflation) had only just moved into "positive territory". Noting that the rate increases were driven by RBI's mandate to maintain price stability, Mr. Das said market forces decide deposit and lending rates.

'Negative rates'

"We had negative interest rates for the last three years and persistent continuation of negative interest rates for far too long can create instability in the financial system and have a lot of risks that have to be avoided.. When interest rates are rising, there is also somebody called the depositor, his interest has to be taken into account," he pointed out.

Referring to the Budget's request to regulators to hold public consultations before framing regulations and set timelines for regulatory processes, Mr. Das said the RBI already holds consultations on several issues and has some timelines in place which can be prescribed for more processes.

"It's not as if consultations do not happen... But there are certain announcements, which are of strategic nature, or have some arbitrage and other issues involved. The budget... is suggesting that wherever feasible, it should be done. It brings in the perspectives that after issuance of a circular, the need for corrections or amendments will get significantly reduced," he explained.

The central bank, he said, faces a challenge in timely clearance of applications to start a bank or a non-banking finance company or a payment system aggregator, because it requires them to establish the 'fit and proper' criteria for the entities concerned with inputs from regulators and agencies within the country, and in some cases, outside India.

"Now, that takes time," Mr. Das noted.

Tight liquidity makes Adani Group firms' dollar bonds a tough buy or sell

Reuters

Investors planning to take advantage of recent price swings in dollar bonds issued by the Adani Group are struggling to find counterparties, which is preventing them from buying more paper or betting on further drops in value.

Dollar bonds issued by Adani entities fell sharply after Hindenburg Research published a report accusing the conglomerate of stock manipulation. But the debt securities have pared losses in recent days.

Adani Green Energy bonds due in 2024 were up at about 75 cents on the dollar on Friday after hitting a record low of about 62 cents last week, according to Tradeweb data. Those bonds were trading at about 95 cents before the January 24 report.

One U.S. holder of Adani bonds looked to buy more this week but said his trade orders were not being executed because of lack of available debt securities.

Another U.S. based emerging markets focused money manager who held Adani bonds said he was sitting tight on his position. The bonds were not easily available because most holders saw little default risk for now, and needed to keep them as part of their funds as a quasi-exposure to India. Sell-side banks, the money manager said, kept limited inventory of the paper to avoid exposure to a group that was still a risky bet given it was working through regulatory scrutiny and attempting to placate investor unease created by the report.

A U.S. based hedge fund manager said he was looking to short Adani's bonds after the report but was finding it difficult to borrow bonds to sell.

Bid-offer spreads, a measure of liquidity, widened sharply after the report. Widening spreads mean the difference between the price sellers are asking and buyers are willing to pay is increasing, making it harder and more costly for investors to trade in and out of positions.

Adani firms pledge shares for lenders of flagship: SBICAP unit

Reuters

Three Adani group companies have pledged shares for lenders to the conglomerate's flagship Adani Enterprises, which pulled a $2.5 billion share sale during a recent market rout, a debt trustee firm said.

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone, Adani Transmission Ltd. and Adani Green Energy Ltd. pledged shares to SBICAP Trustee Co. (STCL), the trustee firm said in filings.

The trustee unit of SBI said it had pledges for shares worth 1% of Adani Ports, up from 0.65%, for 0.55% of Adani Transmission, up from 0.44%, and for 1.06% of Adani Green, up from 0.68%. STCL said it had received the pledges in its capacity as "security trustee" of the lenders of Adani Enterprises.

Group companies controlled by billionaire Gautam Adani have lost more than $100 billion in market value since January 24, when a U.S. short seller issued a scathing report on the edible oil-to-airports conglomerate.

AI said to seal order for 500 jets from Airbus, Boeing

Reuters
BENGALURU/PARIS

Air India has sealed a jumbo deal for about 500 new planes worth more than $100 billion at list prices, in what could become the single largest order by any airline as it seeks to reinvent itself under its new owners, industry sources told Reuters.

The deal, split equally between France's Airbus and rival planemaker Boeing, was first reported by Reuters in December and could finally be announced as early as next week, the sources said.

Air India has agreed to purchase 250 Airbus planes, split between 210 single-aisle A320neos and 40 widebody A350s, and 220 Boeing aircraft including 190 of its 737 MAX narrowbody jets, 20 787 widebodies and 10 777Xs.

On course: The order reflects Air India's strategy to modernise its ageing fleet and recapture a solid share of trips. REUTERS

While Airbus and Air India signed the agreement on Friday, Boeing agreed its deal with the airline on Jan. 27, a date that marks a year since Tata regained ownership of the former state-run carrier, sources told Reuters.

Airbus declined to comment. Air India did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment outside of regular business hours.

In a note to employees on Jan. 27, the airline said it was "finalising a historic order for new aircraft".

The order reflects Air India's strategy to modernise its ageing fleet and recapture a solid share of trips between India's large overseas diaspora and cities such as Delhi and Mumbai, dominated mainly by Gulf rivals such as Emirates with its young planes.

Competing with IndiGo

The deal for 400 narrowbodies will also allow Air India to win a bigger share of regional international traffic and the domestic market, setting up a battle on both fronts with IndiGo.

While the Airbus figure is slightly lower than the 275 originally envisaged, the sources did not rule out a provision by Air India for top-up acquisitions or leases at a later point.

It was not immediately clear to what extent the numbers in the agreement included options that could change the total tally when the final orders are in. The record order aims to put Air India in the league of large global airlines and make it an influential customer for planemakers and suppliers at a time when its home market is seeing a strong post-COVID-19 travel surge.

SEBI moots enhanced role, accountability of mutual fund trustees

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Amid growing scale of the mutual fund industry, regulator SEBI has proposed to increase the role and accountability of the trustees in a bid to safeguard unitholders' interest.

In addition, the regulator has suggested to enhance the accountability of board of asset management company (AMC).

Also, SEBI has proposed a common platform for dissemination of public announcements by mutual funds. In order to have an independent review mechanism for the decisions of AMC from the perspective of the unitholders' interest across all products and services, SEBI has proposed to mandate that a "unit holder protection committee should be constituted by board of AMC".

In its consultation paper, SEBI has suggested that the trustees of mutual funds should focus on market abuse by AMC, its employees, and mis-selling by the AMC to increase the asset base.

SHFL aims to disburse small business loans worth ₹10 cr.

Press Trust of India
CHENNAI

Sundaram Home Finance Ltd., the wholly owned subsidiary of non-banking finance company Sundaram Finance, has set a target to disburse over ₹10 crore under the small business loans segment, MD Lakshminarayanan Duraiswamy said on Saturday.

The city-headquartered company has stepped up presence with the inauguration of an exclusive small business loans branch in Coimbatore.

Sport

Vergne wins a thriller in Hyderabad E-Prix, Mahindra Racing finishes sixth

S. Dipak Ragav
HYDERABAD

In the lead-up to the inaugural Hyderabad E-Prix Formula E race, there were the usual challenges of pulling off a big-ticket event right in the heart of the city.

However, things fell in place when it mattered as the fans witnessed an exciting race in which Frenchman Jean-Eric Vergne of DS Penske resisted a fighting challenge from Nick Cassidy in the Envision Racing to win the race by a margin of just four-tenths of a second.

Cassidy's teammate Sebastian Buemi finished third on the road but received a post-race penalty for using more power than allowed, which promoted Porche's António Félix da Costa to the last podium spot.

Action-packed race: Vergne survived a late challenge from Cassidy. Porche's da Costa took the third spot. PTI

Local team Mahindra Racing had a decent outing as Oliver Rowland finished sixth, scoring his first points finish of the season, and could have been a place higher without a five-second penalty for exceeding track limits. Lucas Di Grassi, in the other Mahindra car, too, was given a five-second time penalty for a similar violation.

Jaguar TCS Racing, part of the TATA Group, had a miserable weekend as its drivers crashed into each other and retired. The team had a golden chance for a win after Mitch Evans took the pole position in Saturday morning's qualifying session and started well by keeping the lead for the first seven laps of the race.

Evans then relinquished track position in a strategic gamble by going off the racing line to gain more power called 'Attack Mode', but the move backfired as he was unable to gain time and position soon enough to get back ahead.

While running third, Sam Bird tried to make a move from fifth but instead crashed into the side of his teammate Evans, taking both cars out of the race.

Soon after the crash, Vergne passed Buemi into the turn three hairpin to take the lead of the race.

After a late safety car period, Cassidy went on the charge, pursuing Vergne with more usable energy left. But Vergne showed impeccable defensive driving despite having less than one per cent of energy left compared to four percentage for Cassidy before the last lap, and took a fine win.

Original Sin should score an encore in the Godolphin Barb Million

HYDERABAD: R.H. Sequeira trainee three-year-old filly Original Sin, who won impressively in her last start, should score an encore in the Godolphin Barb Million, the main attraction of Sunday's (Feb. 12) races.

1 RISING STAR PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 2.15 pm: 1. Angel Tesoro (7) Mukesh Kumar 62, 2. High Reward (8) Md. Ekram Alam 61.5, 3. Its On (4) D.S. Deora 59.5, 4. Deccan Ranger (3) Mohit Singh 56.5, 5. Gusty Note (5) Suraj Narredu 56, 6. Sound Echo (6) Kuldeep S 54.5, 7. My Marvel (1) P. Sai Kumar 53.5 and 8. Creative Art (2) Santosh Raj 52.
1. GUSTY NOTE, 2. ANGEL TESORO, 3. HIGH REWARD

2 MOSSY BANK PLATE (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II) – 2.45: 1. Decoy (6) A.A. Vikrant 56, 2. Great Giver (8) Surya Prakash 56, 3. Hemping Vazra (9) Afroz Khan 56, 4. Lucky Nine (7) Santosh Raj 56, 5. Smart Striker (3) B. Nikhil 56, 6. Splendour On Grass (5) Suraj Narredu 56, 7. Stunning Art (1) D.S. Deora 56, 8. Enabling (4) Kiran Naidu 54.5, 9. Flashing Memories (10) Nakhat Singh 54.5, 10. Miracle Mary (2) Akshay Kumar 54.5 and 11. The Platinum Queen (11) Mukesh Kumar 54.5.
1. MIRACLE MARY, 2. SPLENDOUR ON GRASS, 3. STUNNING ART

3 AUXILIARY CUP (1,400m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) – 3.15: 1. True Icon (2) B. Nikhil 60, 2. True Marshal (8) Akshay Kumar 58, 3. Nightmare (4) Imran Chisty 57, 4. Angelita (6) Mukesh Kumar 56, 5. La Mirage (9) Suraj Narredu 54, 6. Bellagio (1) Md. Ekram Alam 53.5, 7. Ivanhoe (7) Kuldeep S 53.5, 8. Rhythm Selection (3) Rafique Sk. 52 and 9. Only My Way (5) Afroz Khan 51.5.
1. TRUE MARSHAL, 2. IVANHOE, 3. LA MIRAGE

4 SAROORNAGAR PLATE (1,800m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 3.45: 1. Advance Guard (8) P. Ajeeth Kumar 60, 2. Exclusive Spark (2) Akshay Kumar 60, 3. City Cruise (1) R.S. Jodha 58, 4. Alpine Girl (3) Mohit Singh 57.5, 5. Amalfitana (4) Surya Prakash 56.5, 6. Golden Inzio (9) P. Sai Kumar 56, 7. Indian Prince (7) Santosh Raj 55.5, 8. Role Model (11) Nakhat Singh 55.5, 9. China Town (6) Imran Chisty 54, 10. I Am Superman (5) B. Nikhil 53 and 11. Lady Danger (10) D.S. Deora 50.5.
1. CHINA TOWN, 2. CITY CRUISE, 3. AMALFITANA

5 RAJA BAHADUR VENKATARAMA REDDY MEMORIAL CUP (1,200m), rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II) – 4.15: 1. Amyra (4) Mukesh Kumar 60, 2. Shazam (1) Akshay Kumar 57, 3. Carlisle (3) Afroz Khan 55.5, 4. Trump Star (6) Suraj Narredu 55, 5. Unsung Hero (8) P. Ajeeth Kumar 54.5, 6. Xfinity (2) D.S. Deora 54, 7. Maximum Glamour (7) Mohit Singh 53 and 8. Blissful (5) B. Nikhil 52.5.
1. SHAZAM, 2. TRUMP STAR, 3. MAXIMUM GLAMOUR

6 GODOLPHIN BARB MILLION (1,400m) (Terms), 3-y-o only – 4.45: 1. Lucky Zone (4) P. Ajeeth Kumar 56, 2. Golden Gazelle (1) Ashad Asbar 54.5, 3. N R I Doublepower (3) Imran Chisty 54.5, 4. Original Sin (5) Akshay Kumar 54.5, 5. Planet Royale (2) Suraj Narredu 54.5 and 6. Oskars Glory (6) G. Naresh 51.5.
1. ORIGINAL SIN, 2. N R I DOUBLEPOWER, 3. GOLDEN GAZELLE

7 RISING STAR PLATE (DIV. III) (1,200m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 5.15: 1. Mr. Perfect (1) Mohit Singh 62, 2. Sopranos (4) Akshay Kumar 61.5, 3. Star Medal (7) Md. Ekram Alam 59, 4. Desert Sultan (6) Mukesh Kumar 56, 5. Protocol (5) Koushik 55.5, 6. Ayur Tej (3) Afroz Khan 53.5, 7. Shazia (8) D.S. Deora 52.5 and 8. Track Blazer (2) Gaurav Singh 52.5.
1. SOPRANOS, 2. AYUR TEJ, 3. PROTOCOL
Day's Best: **SHAZAM**
Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7.
Mini Jackpot: (i) 1, 2, 3 & 4. (ii) 4, 5, 6 & 7. Treble: (i) 2, 3 & 4. (ii) 5, 6 & 7. Tanala: All races.

EXCITING DAY

Star cricketers attend Hyderabad E-Prix Formula E race

India's star cricketers, including the legendary Sachin Tendulkar, were in the city to attend India's first electric race during the inaugural Hyderabad E-Prix Formula E race on Saturday. Apart from the 'Little Master', Deepak Chahar, Yuzvendra Chahal and Shikhar Dhawan too were seen at the race track.

BACK!

Tiger Woods confirms PGA Tour return at Los Angeles event

Tiger Woods said on Friday he would play in next week's PGA Tour event in Los Angeles, marking his return to competitive golf after a seven-month absence as he recovers from injuries sustained in a 2021 car crash. He last played at the British Open in July. Woods tweeted he plans to play at the Genesis Invitational tournament.

TOP THREE

Messi, Mbappe and Benzema battle for FIFA Best Player award

It's Lionel Messi vs Kylian Mbappe again, this time for the FIFA Best Men's Player award for 2022. Argentina's World Cup-winning captain and France's superstar forward head the three-player shortlist announced by FIFA on Friday, eight weeks after leading their teams in an epic final in Qatar. Karim Benzema completed the top three.

ONE MORE

Calicut Heroes gets the better of Hyderabad Black Hawks

Calicut Heroes picked up its second win of the second season of the RuPay Prime Volleyball League powered by A23 at the Koramangala Indoor Stadium in Bengaluru on Saturday. With M. Ashwin Raj and Jerome Vinith leading the scoring charts, the Calicut team beat the Hyderabad Black Hawks 15-14, 15-12, 15-11, 4-15, 15-14.

Ashwin leads all-rounders' charge as India makes Australia bite the dust

Off-spinner's five-for sparks the visiting team's collapse leading to an innings and 132-run defeat; Jadeja proves just as unplayable and picks up two wickets; Axar almost pulls off a maiden Test century

AUSTRALIA IN INDIA

Amol Karhadkar
NAGPUR

The all-rounder trio sizzled. And, Australia's batting yet again fizzled!

India registered an innings and 132-run victory with seven sessions remaining in the game to take the lead in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

On the third day of the opening Test at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium on Saturday, Axar Patel dominated with the willow to stretch India's overnight lead to 223. R. Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja then took over the baton and decimated Australia for a paltry 91, its lowest Test total in India.

If Australia lasted a little over two sessions on the first day, the second essay folded up in the afternoon session, with Mohammed Shami wiping the tail off after Ashwin and Jadeja had shared eight wickets.

Ashwin, especially, was relentless, exploiting the rough outside left-handers' off-stump. He opened the innings from the North End. And, by the time he made way after a 12-over spell, Australia had been reduced to ashes, at 68 for seven.

Barring Steve Smith, no other Australia batter could apply himself against a top-quality spin attack. Had Virat Kohli not dropped a dolly off David Warner's edge, India wouldn't have required the extension of 11 minutes.

Wrecker-in-chief: Ashwin had the Australians in a nosedive, relentlessly exploiting the rough outside left-handers' off-stump. K.R. DEEPAK

Beginning of the end

It took Ashwin just five balls to start Australia's downfall, Usman Khawaja's audacious attempted drive resulting in a nick to Kohli in the slips. It kick-started the procession, Ashwin being the wrecker-in-chief. His next four wickets were lbws, with Alex Carey's reckless reverse sweep being the false shot.

The other trio – Warner, Matt Renshaw and Peter Handscomb – had little clue of Ashwin's artistry in exploiting helpful conditions.

Jadeja was equally unplayable at the other end, getting rid of Marnus Labuschagne – Australia's best bat in the first essay – with one that held its line and found him stranded in front of middle-stump.

He added a second scalp when Pat Cummins' drive could only result in an edge to K.S. Bharat behind the wickets before Axar and Shami took care of the tail.

In the morning, India compounded Australia's misery by adding 79 runs to its overnight 321 for seven. After Jadeja shouldered arms to one by Todd Murphy that held its line and crashed into the stumps, Axar found an ally in Shami.

Once Shami was dropped at long-on by Scott Boland early on in his innings, he put his head down and opened his shoulders selectively to dominate the 52-run association.

When Shami finally top-edged a heave for Alex Carey to run backward and pouch a comfortable catch, last-man Mohammed Siraj defended well to help Axar inch closer to what would have been his maiden Test hundred.

However, two minutes before scheduled lunch, Axar played Cummins onto the stumps to end India's innings. By then, the fate of the game was sealed, though.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA — 1ST INNINGS: 177.

INDIA - 1ST INNINGS

Rohit Sharma b Cummins 120 *(212b, 15x4, 2x6)*, K.L. Rahul c & b Murphy 20 *(71b, 1x4)*, R. Ashwin lbw b Murphy 23 *(62b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Cheteshwar Pujara c Boland b Murphy 7 *(14b, 1x4)*, Virat Kohli c Carey b Murphy 12 *(26b, 2x4)*, Suryakumar Yadav b Lyon 8 *(20b, 1x4)*, Ravindra Jadeja b Murphy 70 *(185b, 9x4)*, K.S. Bharat lbw b Murphy 8 *(10b, 1x4)*, Axar Patel b Cummins 84 *(174b, 10x4, 1x6)*, Mohammed Shami c Carey b Murphy 37 *(47b, 2x4, 3x6)*, Mohammed Siraj (not out) 1 *(19b)*; Extras (b-6, lb-1, nb-3): 10; Total (in 139.3 overs): 400.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-76 (Rahul, 22.5 overs), 2-118 (Ashwin, 40.1), 3-135 (Pujara, 44.1), 4-151 (Kohli, 52.1), 5-168 (Suryakumar, 59.1), 6-229 (Rohit, 80.4), 7-240 (Bharat, 83.1), 8-328 (Jadeja, 118.2), 9-380 (Shami, 132.4).

AUSTRALIA BOWLING

Cummins 20.3-3-78-2, Boland 17-4-34-0, Lyon 49-13-126-1, Murphy 47-12-124-7, Labuschagne 5-0-24-0, Renshaw 1-0-7-0.

AUSTRALIA — 2ND INNINGS

Usman Khawaja c Kohli b Ashwin 5 *(9b, 1x4)*, David Warner lbw b Ashwin 10 *(41b, 2x4)*, Marnus Labuschagne lbw b Jadeja 17 *(28b, 3x4)*, Steve Smith (not out) 25 *(51b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Matt Renshaw lbw b Ashwin 2 *(7b)*, Peter Handscomb lbw b Ashwin 6 *(6b, 1x4)*, Alex Carey lbw b Ashwin 10 *(6b, 2x4)*, Pat Cummins c Bharat b Jadeja 1 *(13b)*, Todd Murphy c Rohit b Axar 2 *(15b)*, Nathan Lyon b Shami 8 *(20b, 2x4)*, Scott Boland lbw b Shami 0 *(3b)*; Extras (lb-1, nb-4): 5; Total (in 32.3 overs): 91.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-7 (Khawaja, 1.5 overs), 2-26 (Labuschagne, 10.5), 3-34 (Warner, 13.5), 4-42 (Renshaw, 15.2), 5-52 (Handscomb, 17.2), 6-64 (Carey, 19.2), 7-67 (Cummins, 22.4), 8-75 (Murphy, 26.3), 9-88 (Lyon, 30.6).

INDIA BOWLING

Shami 4.3-1-13-2, Ashwin 12-3-37-5, Siraj 1-1-0-0, Jadeja 12-3-34-2, Axar 3-0-6-1.

India won by an innings and 132 runs to lead series 1-0;
Player-of-the-Match: Jadeja.
Second Test: Feb. 17-21.

Rohit pleasantly surprised by Aussie capitulation

Well done, ace! Ashwin, who crossed the 450-wicket mark and inched closer to 100 wickets against Australia, is congratulated by Rohit. K.R. DEEPAK

Amol Karhadkar
NAGPUR

India captain Rohit Sharma said he was surprised at Australia's second innings meltdown, when the visiting team was bowled out in a session to hand India an innings win in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series-opener.

"We were prepared for a hard day's bowling, spending session after session. We never thought they would get bowled out in a session," Rohit said after India annihilated Australia by bowling it out for its second lowest total against, and lowest in, India.

"As you saw, the pitch became slower and slower and there was no bounce, so it was a bit of a surprise for me," he said.

However, despite the facile win, Rohit was wary of Australia bouncing back in the same manner that India did Down Under two years ago after being bowled out for 36 in the first Test.

"Australia is always a good team and the good thing about this (India) team is that we don't care about what happened in the past. We live in the present and not think too much of what happened," Rohit said.

Rohit was full of praise for R. Ashwin, who not only crossed the 450-wicket mark but also inched closer to earning 100 Test wickets against Australia with his sixth five-wicket haul against the Kangaroos.

"He is a very studious guy and likes to understand his game and take it to the next level. He is getting better and better every time and he looks a different bowler," Rohit said.

Australia captain Pat Cummins said, "Playing in India, the game really speeds up. It's a good thing if you are on top, if you are behind, it can be really challenging. I thought all their bowlers bowled really well, really put the pressure on us and next time we have got to find a way to manage that."

Jadeja fined for applying ointment

Sports Bureau
NAGPUR

Ravindra Jadeja has been fined 25% of his match-fees for applying ointment on his fingers without informing the on-field umpires during India's first Test against Australia for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

"The India team management had explained that the finger spinner was applying the cream to a swelling on the index finger of his bowling hand. This was done without asking for permission from the on-field umpires," stated the International Cricket Council (ICC) in a statement.

The ICC statement clarified that the Australian team did not lodge a complaint and Jadeja was not at all accused of ball-tampering.

"The Match Referee was satisfied that the cream was applied to the finger purely for medical purposes...," said the statement.

India, sans Smriti, takes on Pakistan in campaign-opener today

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Press Trust of India
CAPE TOWN

India vice-captain Smriti Mandhana was on Saturday ruled out of the team's opening Women's T20 World Cup game against Pakistan on Sunday as she is "still recovering" from a finger injury.

Smriti picked up the injury while fielding during the warm-up game against Australia earlier this week, which forced her out of the warm-up game against Bangladesh.

"Smriti has a finger injury and is still (in) recovery, so she won't play most likely. It's not a fracture and we're hopeful she will be available from the second game," stand-in coach Hrishikesh Kanitkar said at a press conference on Saturday.

Kanitkar added that captain Harmanpreet Kaur had recovered fully from the shoulder niggle she picked up during the Tri-Series involving the West Indies and South Africa. "Harman is fit to play. She batted the last two days in the nets, she is fine," Kanitkar added. India is clubbed with England, Pakistan, the West Indies and Ireland in Group B.

Pakistan's preparations included a series against Australia. Then it beat Bangladesh in a warm-up match before losing to South Africa.

Meanwhile on Saturday, England registered a facile seven-wicket victory over the West Indies in a Group-B encounter at Paarl on Saturday. Nat Sciver-Brunt steered her side home with an unbeaten 40.

Time for action: Harmanpreet has recovered from a shoulder niggle and will be raring to go. FILE PHOTO: EMMANUAL YOGINI

The teams (from):

India: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma, Yastika Bhatia, Richa Ghosh, Jemimah Rodrigues, Harleen Deol, Deepti Sharma, Devika Vaidya, Radha Yadav, Renuka Thakur, Anjali Sarvani, Pooja Vastrakar, Rajeshwari Gayakwad and Shikha Pandey.

Pakistan: Bismah Maroof (Capt.), Aiman Anwar, Aliya Riaz, Ayesha Naseem, Sadaf Shamas, Fatima Sana, Javeria Wadood, Muneeba Ali, Nashra Sundhu, Nida Dar, Omaima Sohail, Sadia Iqbal, Sidra Amin, Sidra Nawaz and Tuba Hassan.

Match starts at 6.30 p.m. IST.

The scores:

On Saturday: West Indies 135/7 in 20 overs (Hayley Matthews 42, Shemaine Campbelle 34; Ecclestone 3/23) lost to England 138/3 in 14.3 overs (Nat Sciver-Brunt 40 n.o., Sophia Dunkley 34). **Toss:** West Indies.

On Friday: Sri Lanka 129/4 in 20 overs (Chamari Athapaththu 68, Vishmi Gunarathne 35) bt South Africa 126/9 in 20 overs (Sune Luus 23; Sugandika Kumari 2/28, Oshadi Ranasinghe 2/20, Inoka Ranaweera 3/18). PoM: Chamari. **Toss:** South Africa.

Arsenal drops points against Brentford

Crucial strike: Toney celebrates his equaliser against Arsenal. AP

Agencies
LONDON

Arsenal stumbled again as the Premier League leader was held to a 1-1 draw by Brentford, while Tottenham's top four hopes were dented by an embarrassing 4-1 defeat at Leicester on Saturday.

Earlier, Chelsea was held to a 1-1 draw at West Ham United.

The results: Premier League: West Ham 1 (Emerson 28) drew with Chelsea 1 (Felix 16); Arsenal 1 (Trossard 66) drew with Brentford 1 (Toney 74); Crystal Palace 1 (Tomkins 69) drew with Brighton 1 (March 63); Fulham 2 (Willian 17, Solomon 88) bt Nottingham Forest 0; Leicester 4 (Mendy 23, Maddison 25, Iheanacho 45, Barnes 81) bt Tottenham 1 (Bentancur 14); Southampton 1 (Alcaraz 25) lost to Wolves 2 (Bednarek 73-og, Gomes 87).

LaLiga: Almeria 2 (Suarez 27, Costa 63) lost to Real Betis 3 (Rodri 6, Canales 42, Guardado 70).

Bundesliga: Bayern Munich 3 (Mueller 41, Coman 64, Gnabry 74-pen) bt Bochum 0; Werder Bremen 0 lost to Borussia Dortmund 2 (Bynoe-Gittens 67, Brandt 84).

On Friday: Serie A: AC Milan 1 (Giroud 62) bt Torino 0.

Pole vault silver for Pavithra

Sports Bureau

Pavithra Vengatesh upset Indian outdoor record holder Rosy Meena Paulraj while winning the women's pole vault silver at the 10th Asian indoor athletics championships in Astana, Kazakhstan, on Saturday. Pavithra was tied with Japan's Mayu Nasu at 4.00m at the end of the event but the latter took the gold on a countback.

The results: (gold medallists and Indian performances in finals):

Men: **100m**: 1. Imranur Rahman (Ban) 6.59s.; **400m**: 1. Ammar Ismail Ibrahim (Qat) 46.25s.; **1500m**: 1. Kazuto Iizawa (Jpn) 3:42.83s.

Women: **400m**: 1. Elina Mikhina (Kaz) 54.07s.; **1500m**: 1. Thi Oanh Nguyen (Vie) 4:15.55s.; **Triple jump**: 1. Sharifa Davronova (Uzb) 13.98m, 4. Poorva Hitesh Sawant (Ind) 13.06, 7. N.V.. Sheena (Ind) 12.30.; **Pole vault**: 1. Mayu Nasu (Jpn) 4.00m, 2. Pavithra Vengatesh (Ind) 4.00, 3. Rosy Meena Paulraj (Ind) 3.90.; **Shot put**: 1. Jeong Yu Sun (Kor) 16.98m, 5. Abha Khatua (Ind) 14.80.

INBRIEF

Real Kashmir snatches a point from Neroca

Real Kashmir and Neroca of Manipur played out a 2-2 draw in an I-League match in Srinagar on Saturday.

The result:
Real Kashmir 2 (Agyemang 10, Bawitlung 90+4) drew with Neroca 2 (Fletcher 13-penalty, Agyemang 70-og).

Yashaswini, Sayanika triumph in Jr. National table tennis

Yashaswini Ghorpade of Karnataka and Sayanika Maji of Delhi bagged the youth (u-19) & junior (u-17) girls' singles titles in the UTT 84th inter-State National championships in Chennai on Saturday.

The results (finals): Girls: U-19: Singles: Yashaswini Ghorpade (Kar) bt Suhana Saini (Har) 11-8, 11-9, 7-11, 8-11, 13-11, 11-9. **Doubles:** Lakshita Narang / Avisha Karmakar (Del) bt Suhana / Prithoki Chakraborty (Har) 7-11, 5-11, 12-10, 11-9, 11-9.
U-17: Singles: Sayanika Maji (Del) bt Taneesha Kotecha (Mah) 11-9, 11-5, 11-9, 11-3. **Doubles**: Jennifer Varghese / Pritha Vartikar (Mah) bt Amrutha Subaash / M. Hansini (TN) 11-7, 11-8, 11-3.

It's India against Pakistan in the boys' title clash

India will take on Pakistan in the boys' final of the HCL-SRFI Asian junior team squash championships here on Saturday. In the semifinals, India edged out Korea 2-1.

The results (semifinals): Boys: India bt Korea 2-1 (Krishna Mishra bt Jooyoung Na 12-10, 11-9, 11-8; Shaurya Bawa lost to Kun Kim 11-8, 8-11, 1-11, 6-11; Paarth Ambani bt Seojin Oh 11-9, 11-5, 11-4); Pakistan bt Malaysia 2-0.
Girls: Malaysia bt India 2-1 (Aira Binti Azman lost to Anahat Singh 9-11, 5-11, 11-4, 7-11; Whitney Isabelle bt Yuvna Gupta 13-11, 11-8, 5-11, 9-11, 11-7; Yasshmita Jadishkumar bt R. Pooja Arthi 9-11, 11,-4, 11-7, 15-13; Hong Kong bt Japan 2-1.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: Sports 18-1, MTV (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7 a.m.
Ranji Trophy: (semifinals), Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.
Zimbabwe vs West Indies: 2nd Test, day 1, FanCode, 1.30 p.m.
I-League: Eurosport (SD & HD), 3 & 5.30 p.m.
Serie A: Jio Cinema App, 5, 7.30, 10.30 p.m.; Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.45 a.m. (Monday)
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 6.30, 8.45, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Monday)
Women's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6.30 & 10.30 p.m.
PVL: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 & 10 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony LIV, 8 p.m.; Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10 p.m.

Vasavada's double ton puts Saurashtra in strong position to make another final

The skipper's knock takes the game beyond Karnataka's reach, as he stitches a useful stand with Jani to take time out of the equation

RANJI SEMIFINALS

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Arpit Vasavada all but batted Karnataka out of the Ranji Trophy semifinal at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Saturday.

The skipper, who had played the rescue act on day three with Sheldon Jackson, gave his innings a match-winning halo on day four. The 34-year-old's second First Class double-ton (202, 406b, 21x4, 1x6) helped Saurashtra take a first-innings lead of 120 after being 43 runs shy at the day's start.

That left Karnataka with four sessions to level the score, set a target and bowl the visitors out. It managed the first task, raking up 123 runs after Tea. But the loss of four wickets, including those of Mayank Agarwal (55, 64, 5x4) and Manish Pandey (4, 13b), and a lead of just three runs makes the other two well-nigh impossible.

Monumental: Skipper Vasavada's double ton has almost assured Saurashtra's spot in the final. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Saurashtra now has one foot in the summit clash, and only a miracle can deny it a third final appearance in four editions.

"I feel extremely happy to contribute in a way that we are in a good position," Vasavada said. " My game is to stay at the wicket and take singles and doubles. Really happy to have done that."

Starting from an overnight 364 for four, Saurashtra was unhurried in the morning session. From 39 overs, only 109 runs were scored, but Vasavada and Chirag Jani (72, 149b, 5x4, 1x6) helped achieve the twin objective of securing the all-important first-innings lead and denying Karnataka time to force a win.

Vasavada eventually brought up his double-century with a hard-run double, emblematic of his side's dogged resilience and perseverance. He was the ninth man out, playing pacer Vidwath Kaverappa (35.4-6-83-5) on to his stumps. But by then, the job was done.

Mayank, to his credit, didn't let shoulders slump. Despite the early loss of R. Samarth and Devdutt Padikkal, he rebuilt the innings in the company of Nikin Jose (54 batting, 74b, 6x4) and accounted for a fine half-century (55, 64b, 5x4).

But Saurashtra often bowled to loaded leg-side fields, forcing the batters to reverse-sweep or go inside-out. It was no surprise that Mayank was out caught at long-off trying to go over the top. The knock left him nine short of the 1000-run mark for the season. It is likely to remain that way.

The scores:
Karnataka — 1st innings: 407.
Saurashtra — 1st innings: Harvik Desai lbw b Koushik 33, Snell Patel b Kaverappa 0, Vishvarajsinh Jadeja b Kaverappa 22, Sheldon Jackson lbw b Gowtham 160, Arpit Vasavada b Kaverappa 202, Chirag Jani (run out) 72, Prerak Mankad lbw b Shreyas 8, Parth Bhut lbw b Shreyas 0, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja c Samarth b Kaverappa 6, Chetan Sakariya (not out) 2, Kushang Patel b Kaverappa 0; Extras (b-8, lb-9, w-4, nb-1): 22; Total (in 174.4 overs): 527.
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-40, 3-92, 4-324, 5-466, 6-484, 7-484, 8-508, 9-527.
Karnataka bowling: Kaverappa 35.4-6-83-5, Koushik 32-9-79-1, Vyshak 31-5-114-0, Gowtham 46-8-115-1, Shreyas 29-2-113-2, R. Samarth 1-0-6-0.
Karnataka — 2nd innings: R. Samarth lbw b Sakariya 0, Mayank Agarwal c Sakariya b Dharmendrasinh 55, Devdutt Padikkal b Sakariya 7, Nikin Jose (batting) 54, Manish Pandey lbw b Bhut 4; Extras (lb-3): 3; Total (for four wkts. in 26.4 overs): 123.
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-14, 3-114, 4-123.
Saurashtra bowling: Sakariya 4-0-24-2, Kushang 4-0-22-0, Mankad 1-0-6-0, Dharmendrasinh 9-1-27-1, Bhut 8.4-0-41-1.

Bengal extends its lead to 547 over MP

Dhruva Prasad
INDORE

Madhya Pradesh found itself buried under a mountain of runs, courtesy Pradipta Pramanik's (60 n.o., 101b, 3x4, 5x6) blistering rearguard and Anustup Majumdar's (80, 219b, 7x4) resolute knock, as Bengal extended its lead to 547 on the penultimate day of the Ranji Trophy semifinal at the Holkar Cricket Stadium here on Saturday.

Saransh Jain (six for 103) dented the lower-order and gave the sprinkling of home fans something to cheer about.

Smashed for six

Crowd-favourite Avesh Khan was brought back into the attack in a bid to end MP's ordeal. But Pramanik smashed him for a six and a four to notch up his 89-ball fifty as Bengal's 56-run unbeaten 10th wicket partnership stretched the total to 279 for nine at Stumps.

The scores:
Bengal — 1st innings: 438.
Madhya Pradesh — 1st innings: 170.
Bengal — 2nd innings: Karan Lal b Saransh 19, Abhimanyu Easwaran b Kartikeya 17, Sudip Gharami lbw b Saransh 41, Anustup Majumdar lbw b Kartikeya 80, Manoj Tiwary c Kartikeya b Saransh 15, Abishek Porel c Patidar b Saransh 1, Shahbaz Ahmed lbw b Kartikeya 29, Pradipta Pramanik (batting) 60, Akash Deep c Avesh b Saransh 0, Mukesh Kumar c sub (Aman) b Saransh 2, Ishan Porel (batting) 1; Extras (b-6, lb-8): 14; Total (for nine wkts., in 119 overs): 279.
Fall of wickets: 1-37, 2-39, 3-124, 4-163, 5-165, 6-213, 7-218, 8-219, 9-223.
Madhya Pradesh bowling: Kartikeya 46-17-63-3, Anubhav 13-2-38-0, Avesh 11-3-39-0, Gaurav 7-0-22-0, Saransh 42-9-103-6.

Krishna's strike ensures a crucial win for Bengaluru FC

ISL-9

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

A fine solo effort from Roy Krishna gave Bengaluru FC (BFC) a crucial 1-0 win over Kerala Blasters in their Indian Super League fixture here on Saturday. BFC (28 points), which recorded a remarkable sixth win on the trot, moved to fifth.

The home side, with two league games to go, is now in a great position to finish in the top-six and earn a playoff spot.

Krishna's brilliant 32nd-minute goal proved to be the difference between the two sides. The Fijian took a few dribbles down the flank, and outmuscled his marker Ruivah Hormipam. The centre-back fell to the ground, allowing Krishna a path to goal. With a calm finish past custodian Prabhsukhan Gill from close range, Krishna underlined his class.

Cool-headed: Roy Krishna finishes calmly past Blasters' custodian Prabhsukhan Gill. ISL / FOCUS SPORTS

BFC had the chance to close out the match a few minutes later, when Javi Hernandez found himself in a one-on-one scenario with Prabhsukhan. The goalkeeper, however, effected a fine save to deny the Spaniard.

The result: Bengaluru 1 (Krishna 32) bt Kerala Blasters 0. **At Goa:** FC Goa 3 (Noah 5, Bardon 42, Brison 84) lost to Mumbai City 5 (Stewart 18, 45, Pereyra Diaz 40, Chhangte 71-P, Vikram 77).

Jonathan Aditya stars for Bangalore City FC

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Jonathan Aditya scored a hat-trick as Bangalore City FC blanked Al Fateh 4-0 in the BDFA B-division football league on Saturday.

The result:
Bangalore City FC 4 (Jonathan Aditya Piers 6, 56, 60, Fazil Hassan Ahmed 44) bt Al Fateh 0.

Chess tournament

Rainbow Club Kidz Library, Malleshwaram will organise an Open Rapid and Children's Chess tournament on February 26 at the RMZ Galleria Mall, Yelahanka. Competitions will be conducted in the under-8, 10, 12, 16 categories.

Registrations close on February 24. Contact: 9449340975 / 9448292516.

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